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MONDAY

PLUS TWO EXTRA SECTIONS: THE NEW BRITISH FOOD - AND GUIDE TO

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FA damns Italian police for Rome violence

By Adrian Lee and Richard Owen in Rome

Italian authorities of ignoring

advice from British police

experts who were sent to.

control a small number of

known hooligans. Instead the

Italian organisers sold tickets

to English fans for the wrong

end of the stadium, it said.

When both sets of fans began

combarding each other with seats and bottles, the report said, the police only acted against the English sup-

The report said stewarding in the 82,000 all-seater stadi-

um was almost non-existent and elementary crowd safety procedures were abandoned amid chaos. The FA called for

countries which stage interna-

tional matries to agree to a

Concern grew last night that

Anglo-Italian encounter, when

Manchester United fans travel

to Turin for the tie against

Juvenius. FA sources said they

did not think it right to sit on-

this report until after that

DOLLETS.

THE Footbail Association yesterday accused the Italian police of "deliberate intimidation" and "extreme provocation" in a damning report into the violence that marred England's World Cup match in

Rome a fortnight ago.

The condemnation threatened to blow up into a diplomatic storm last night as the Italian Embassy in London dismissed the investigation as a one-sided

As Italian diplomats contin-ued to blame "English hooli-gans" for causing the violence seen by millions on television. the FA stood by its dossier.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, refused to be drawn into the mounting acrimony but said he would meet the FA to discuss the investigation.

the report of the Italian Interior Ministry's own inquiry would be released next week but added: "It is a nonsense to blame our police when they had to face drunken hooligans throwing missiles." He said 77 seats had been ripped up by English fans and four policemen were seriously injured.

The EA dossier was com-piled from the graphic testi-mony of 1,500 supporters who described how they faced ba-ton charges, insults and were spat at. One complainant was aged 12. The FA accused the



game. They agreed that the behaviour of the police and the travelling fans will receive David Mellor, head of the Football Task Force, welcomed the report, and agreed more had to be done to prevent known troublemakers following the England team abroad. In Rome a spokesman for Mario Pescante, chairman of

the Italian Olympic Commit-tee, charged that British officials were inconsistent: They say one thing to us and another to the British public." The Italian Football Federation said it would study the report carefully. The chief of police, Rino Monaco, declined to comment.

Francesco Rutelli, Mayor of Rome, said there was "no basis" for accusations that the police were brutal. On the contrary, they contained a dangerous situation which could have got out of hand".

Football reports, pages 35-39



Cherie Blair escorts Bumni Anyaoku, wife of the Commonwealth Secretary General, through a "Family Festival" marquee in Edinburgh

Personal video image of Blair's Britain

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

al stamp on the new image of Britain as a young, vibrant nation yesterday with a re-markable promotional video shown to millions of television viewers across the Common-

The eight-minute broadcast, a visual directory of "who's in" in Cool Britannia — and, by omission. "who's out" - w session of story, music at

speeches to representatives of 51 countries meeting in Edin-Blairite choices such as Ted Baker, his children's favourite shirt designer, and recent Downing Street celebrity guests Richard Branson, the Virgin boss, and Noel

Gallagher of Oasis. The relaunch of New Britain was more of a facelift than a makeover. Such is the tyran-

ras nie	ny of youth that Desmo Lynam's was the only gr	nd Pv
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	Euro	릨
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1.0	Michael Caine	3
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	200	20.7

ers and brattish film stars. Nobody was allowed to be ed scenes from the film about male strippers, The Full Monty, and excerpts from the Spice Girls' Wannabe video, was watched in silence by Commonwealth leaders.

But its target audience was the people of the Empire's former subject nations, whose memories of the British are dominated by marching bands, superior colonials taking tiffin, drinking gin and

tonic and playing polo.

The video, produced by Pete
Bolton of Spectrum, introduced Mr Blair's speech to the conference. It began with a Union flag surrounded by the internet address.

Against a background of techno music, graphics were rapidly displayed on the themes of technology, trade, education, the environment and culture. First, a gleaming CD faded into pictures of a telescope five times more powerful than Hubble, which can see the surfaces of stars. Designed, of course, in

Britain. Next came a stroke patient having a life-saving operation, a jet plane with Rolls-Royce turbine blades capable of withstanding 1000C, and a

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JOHN LLOYD.

COURT & SOCIAL.

tify people by their irises.
The segment about trade image of the Queen's head being the only reference to monarchy in the entire video. Pills were seen on a production line as the pharmaceutical industry's achievements were lauded. Also British were the world's busiest airport (planes at Heathrow), most Formula 1 cars (tight corners at Grand Prix), most European retailers (people buying oranges at supermarkets), and

exchange business (City traders waving their arms).

cluded the Eden Project to create a giant greenhouse in Cornwall and an environmentaily-friendly Sainsbury's jug-Education gernaut. Illustrated by children using computers and an Open University student writing an es-Finally, culture highlighted fashion, film, architecture, rock and design.

New Britain, page 13

Anyone for tennis with our Tony?

BY PHILIP DELVES

WHEN Tony Blair met the Commonwealth heads of government yesterday in Edinburgh he was look-ing not at their sashes and gongs but rather for a specific snap in the hips, strength in the leg and a

cool, unsweaty palm.
"The Prime Minister is looking for a tennis partner," said one of his aides yesterday. "He will choose one after he has met them all today."

The Commonwealth leaders will be adjourning on Sunday to St Andrews where golf, massages, ten-nis and football will be on offer. In the botels of Edinburgh, Mr Blair's challenge has been met with vigour. High commissioners and advisers are urging their bosses into toe-touching, leg curis and short sprints.

Typical is the attitude of the Bahamians, whose President, Hubert Ingraham, though in the mid to low-5ft range, is up for it. "He is a bit short," says a Bahamas High Commis-sion official, and not so athletic. Golf is really his game, but I am sure he could play tennis if he needed to.

President Masire of Bois in his seventies but very athletic," his High Commission says. "He keeps fit by herding buffaloes, that

sort of thing." Nobody, it seems, is prepared to say his head of government is any less than a near Linford Christie. Dr Keith Claudius Mitchell, Grenada's Continued on p2, col 2

Times busiest

Internet site

Readers of the Internet edi-

tions of The Times and The Sunday Times called up more

angel on January I, 1996.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

Rector found guilty of affair with married parishioner

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

than 11.3 million pages in September, making the Inter-net editions of the two news-THE Rector of Benliech last papers the busiest audited website in Britain, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation. The website also reits one-millionth reader registration amor its parishioner. The Times is online at:

night faced being stripped of his holy orders after an ecclesiastical court in Wales found he had had an adulterous sixyear affair with a married After a five-day hearing, the three judges on the Church in Wales's Provincial Court de-

clared that the Rev Clifford-Williams, 49, had given "just cause for scandal or offence". Mr Williams, who was wearing a dog collar for the first time in court, has pledged to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. The church court had been peti-tioned by the Bishop of Bangor, the Right Rev Dr Barry Morgan, to inquire whether

a way to give "just cause for scandal or offence". Mr Williams had to answer four formal charges that he conducted an adulterous six-

Mr Williams behaved in such

year affair with Iris Green, 56, and that he engaged in "close. relations of improper familiar-ity with another married parishioner, Anne Williams. The other charges alleged that Mr Williams lied to the bishop over the name of the photo-graphs taken of him with Mrs Green on the Malvern Hills, and that he disobeyed the bishop's order to stop conducting church services at St

Andrew's Church, Benllech. The court, which last sat in public in 1938, heard Mrs Green, a music teacher who moved to Tyn-y-Gongl on Anglesey in 1989, complain that the rector pursued her for sex and had other lovers. She claimed he seduced her on her sofa when she was still vulnerable after the death of her teenage son in a motorcycle accident. As the relationship soured, he stalked her and plagued her with phone calls.

"He preys on women, particularly women who are in vulnerable positions," said. Questioned on where they had sex, she replied: There were so many: in his house, in his living room, bedroom, practically every room in my house, the garden, in the caravan, on the beach and in his car. Is that

enough?"
Yesterday the proceedings were interrupted so that a sworn affidavit from Gwenda Williams, the rector's wife, could be read out. It directly rebutted evidence given under affirmation by the rector on Thursday that he and his wife were still living fully as man and wife.

It read: This is not true. Since September 1996 I have slept in a separate bedroom. do not have a sexual relationship, neither do I cook Centimued on page 5, col 5 SHARE PRICES: BUSINESS NEWS___ UNIT TRUSTS ... **WEEKEND MONEY.. 51-64** WEEKEND GARDENING. PROPERTY. FATTH TRAVEL

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Brown to give EMU line on Monday



has returned as **Mellow Mother**

Tom Rhodes on Hillary Clinton at 50 - page 9



commitment to forgiveness does not come from my experience as a victim'

Valerie Grove meets **Mary McAleese**



'Charlie Whelan. the Chancellor's press secretary, has been more spinned against than spinning'

Michael Gove traces a Labour disaster page 19

GORDON BROWN will seek to end the damaging speculation about the Government's position on membership of a single European currency in a statement to the

House of Commons on Monday. The Treasury said that the Government was acting "decisively to stop speculation by making a statement to Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity".

Strict secrecy surrounds the contents of the Chancellor's statement. to be made on the day MPs return to Westminster after the summer recess. But Mr Brown will rule out entry in the first wave in 1999. The statement is also expected to reflect Mr Brown's view, as signalled in his Times interview last week, that Britain cannot enter during the lifetime of this Parliament.

The Tories claimed that they had forced the Government into making The Chancellor will seek to end the speculation with a statement to the Commons, while Mr Hague's new policy is under fire, write Andrew Pierce and Jill Sherman

a Commons statement but the Conservatives' own internal difficulties on Europe resurfaced yesterday. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, led the fightback against the Shadow Cabinet decision to harden its opposition to a single currency by opposing entry in this Parliament and the next. Peter Temple-Morris, a senior MP, said he could not

support the new position.
The outline of Mr Brown's statement was discussed by the Cabinet on Thursday but the Prime Minister has issued an edict that there be no briefing in advance because the text is so market-sensitive. Confirmation of the statement came after the London markets had closed last

night. A Treasury spokesman said: "No official, adviser or Minister will speak on behalf of the Government about the details of the statement beforehand."

Minutes after the announcement of the statement a Downing Street spokesman said that the speech would set out a pragmatic approach, with the Government facing up to "hard choices". The spokes-man said: "The dithering of the previous Government will not be

The early statement to Parliament, which had been repeatedly requested by the Opposition, was announced after damaging specula-tion on the markets following conflicting reports about the Govern-

ment's policy.
The Prime Minister, who is in Edinburgh for the Commonwealth summit, is heavily involved in the drafting of the wording, which has not been finalised. The outline was reported to the Cabinet on Thursday.

Ministers hope that that the clarification of the Government's position will stop nerves jangling in the City and silence Opposition critics who have made political capital from the Government's apparent turmoil.

The pressure was maintained on the Government yesterday when Sir Leon Brittan, the European Com-

missioner, gave warning that "a Dutch auction" in Euroscepticism was damaging Britain's national interest. Sir Leon said that the Government had undermined its chances of taking a leading role in Europe through the leaks, and confusions over its antitude to EMU. There is no proper debate." Sir

Leon said. He also turned his fire on the Tories. Sir Leon said: "Even the most far sighted politician could not possibly rule out joining something of such magnitude in the future." Sir Leon, who was speaking at a conference in London on economic and monetary union, added: "How can opposition to the EMU be

frozen in stone - irrespective of international markets? If the Tories want to campaign against the single currency at the next election, then they are practically making decisions until 2007 - surely that is contrary to rational policy?

CO

His comments were echoed by Mr Clarke, in an ominous development for William Hague's prospects of Tory unity. Mr Clarke, speaking on Radio 4's The World at One, said that he preferred the recently agreed Tory formula that Britain should not join EMU for the foresceable future" and regretted that the Shadow Cabinet had changed it again. "I don't know why the issue was revisited. I hope it not just to please some Eurosceptics who insisted on different wording."

Michael Gove, page 19 John Lloyd, page 22

Tony's tennis

Continued from page I Prime Minister, is "a very fit man" according to his office. "Very accomplished at cricket and football, but maybe not so good at tennis." Even the Indians are keen to push their man, Inder Kumar Gujral, Prime Minister and 5ft 8in of lithe muscle. He is "extremely fit for his age," a giggly official said, "But perhaps he is a little old for the more vigorous

sports." He is 78. Mr Blair seems to revel in putting his physical prowess to public test. At the Amsterdam summit this year, when all the European Union heads of government were given a bicycle to ride, Mr Blair streaked off ahead of his fellow ministers. Germany's Helmut Kohl, by contrast, looked from belly to machine and said "Nein"

However, Mr Blair may just find his opponent. Eriya Katagaya, Uganda's Prime Minister, is a demon server with searing groundstrokes. He remains a prince of the sward into his 50s.

dan High Commission says. "He is a different size to your Prime Minister." Not another hitch? "Oh no. He is big." Bigger than big Tony? "Oh yes. Much bigger. He is a very big man." The only problem is that he has left his shorts and vindictive Tory could oblige,



The chief executive of Cairn Energy, Bill Gammell, front right, in a rather unkind gesture yesterday, produced an old school photograph of himself and a young Tony Blair, front left, in their Fettes College baskethall gear

Experts at odds over dangers of eating red meat By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

FRESH doubts have been cast on government advice that eating red meat can increase the risk of cancer!

The committee responsible has yet to agree on the final wording of its report, even though the recommendations have been published in a press

release from the Department of Health on September 25. The department last night denied that any changes were planned in the wording of the key advice on red meat, but there are known to be disagreements within the Committee on the Medical Aspects of food policy (COMA) over how strong it should be.

The original version, writthe original version, whiten by a panel headed by Professor Aian Jackson of Southampton University, favoured warning only those who eat 140 grams or more of meat a day. This advice was incorporated into the report and sent to the printer. But at the last moment two members of the full committee demand-

ed stronger language. Philip James, director of the Rowert Research Institute in Aberdeen, the nutrition expert responsible-for producing a report at Tony Blair's request on how the new Food Stan-dards Agency should be organised. After Professor James objected, copies of the report were scrapped and a new version prepared incorpo-rating stronger advice. This said that anybody eating the current average intake of red meat or above 190 grams a day) "should consider a

The revised version was discussed at a COMA meeting on October 21. Professor Jackson, with the backing of his panel, is understood to have expressed reservations about

the new wording.

He indicated that the advice his panel had originally drafted was as much as the scientific evidence justified. The result is a stalemate, with no date for the final publication of the report and no clarity over what government advice on meat really is.

A Health Department spokeswoman said yesterday: "COMA want to make sure that the wording of their recommendation cannot be misunderstood by anyone, is scientifically accurate, and is useful to health professionals and consumers."

The latest muddle will infuriate ministers who had al-ready been embarrassed by the need to halt printing of the first version. But it reflects intense battles going on within Whitehall over food policy.

NEWS IN BRIEF Body is found in hunt

for boy

Detectives investigating the disappearance of Jamie Lavis, eight, said they had uncarthed the remains of a child in woodland next to Reddish Vale Golf Course at Stockport. Manchester. The boy disappeared on May 5. Darren Vickers, 27, a bus driver, has been charged with the boy's

Dome answers

Peter Mandelson is to be questioned once a month is the Commons about the Government's plans to mark the Millennium. Portfolio, who will answer questions on the project for five minutes each month, makes his first appearance on Nov-ember 10.

Snap happy

Eleven baby West African crocodiles, thought to be the biggest clutch hatched in captivity, have made crocodiles, which measured 10cm when they were born within an hour of each other, went on show at Bristol Zoo aged ten weeks. They feed on crickets, fish and mice.

Shout verdict

A teacher who shouted at his wife so loudly that she suffered permanent hearat Exeter Crown Court of causing actual bodily harm. Peter Pryor. 58. from Barnstaple, Devon, had wanted her to know how his tinnitus affected him. Sentencing was adjourned for reports.

School inquest

A papil who died when he crashed his car into the gates of Malvern College during a police chase was over the legal drink-drive limit, an inquest was told. Julian Elwell, 17, had a reading of 104mg alcohol in 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 80mg. The hearing at Worcester was adjourned.

Lightbulb fault

The Co-op has issued an urgent recall of all its 40, 60 and 100-watt lightbulhs bought from the store since July. A small num-ber of bulbs could be affected by a fault that might cause improperly earthed metal fittings to become live. The store is offering to refund or replace any suspect bulbs.

Theatre closes

The Arts Theatre, Cambridge, home of the student Footlights Review, is to close for four months next summer because of a eash crisis, it was annonneed. It has debts of £1.5 million only 11 months after it reopened following refurbishment paid for with a £6 million National Lottery grant.

Rotten luck

The first pineapples in 150 years to be ripened by rotting horse manure were picked yesterday.
Experts at the Lost Gardens of Heligan had to rediscover the lost art of building a manure "hot bed". Richard Dec. head gardener, said: "It is a bit sharper than a supermar-

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Willetts rejoins Thatcher era policy centre

DAVID Willetts, one of the Conservatives' foremost political thinkers, is to rejoin the think-tank that helped to revive Tory fortunes in the 1970s. The Havant MP, who was forced to resign as a minister last year in the aftermath of

the cash-for-questions scandal, is going back to the Centre for Policy Studies.

He will become deputy chairman of the centre, which was set up by Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph

in 1974 and blazed a trail for the radical free-market economics of the 1980s.

The comeback of Mr
Willetts, 41, will intensify the rivalry among think-tanks. Al-though the left-leaning Demos and the Institute for Public

Policy Research are close to Tony Blair, the centre and its right-wing rivals, such as the Adam Smith Institute, can still compete in the battle for the ear of opinion-formers.

Mr Willetts said his task was to give the the centre strategic direction and put it back at the forefront of Con-

servative thought. "Thatcher and Joseph were the giants. Circumstances are different. In the 1970s, Conservative principles had been lost sight of. I don't think that's the problem now.

"But one of the things wrong in government was a failure to talk about Conservatism in an attractive and confident way. One way we should be able to help is by correcting some of the absurd caricatures of what Conservatives believe and contributing to a lively and attractive debate about the future of Conservatism."

Mr Willetts. a Tory spokesman on employment, will continue to deputise for Peter Lilley, who is spearheading William Hague's long-term review of Conservative policy.
At the think tank, which has lost some of its lustre in recent

remain as director and Lord Griffiths of Florestlach as chairman. But Mr Willetts, director of the centre from 1987 to 1992, is expected to become its main driving force.

Guidelines will ensure foetuses feel no pain

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOETUSES older than 24 weeks should be sedated or aneastherised during operations to save them or abort them, according to new guidelines drawn up to ensure they experience no pain.

A working party composed of medical experts, as well as a theologian and a lawyer, came to the conclusion that a foetus cannot feel pain until it is 26 weeks old. This is when the lished between the cortex and the thalamus in the brain, the two parts that confer awareness. Erring on the safe side, the working party recom-mended that at 24 weeks a doctor should consider taking the necessary precautions. In practice, a doctor carrying out an abortion stops the heart of almost all foetuses older than 20 weeks. This is

done by injection into the heart with a flexible needle. Because abortions are not legal after the 24th week, they are only performed when the doctors decide there is a certainty the child would be born too handicapped to be viable. An extremely rare procedure, it was carried out in 62

of 160,000 abortions last year. Dame Anne McLaren, who chaired the working party for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said: "Sometimes a mother asks that the foetus is delivered live to her so that she can hold it. In those circumstances the doctor gives an analgesic to the mother which then gets through to the foctus before the abortion. The child only lives very briefly afterwards."

The British Medical Association welcomed the guidelines and said that even if there was no incontrovertible evidence that foetuses feel pain, the use of painkillers when carrying out procedures "may help to relieve the anxiety of the parents and health profes-

The Conservatives hit back, after a fashion

Labour women have been mocked as "mutton dressed as glam". Andrew Pierce reports

TORY women MPs struck back in the political fashion wars yesterday, by criticising the rapidly shortening hemlines, high heels and dress code of the new intake of sister Labour MPs. The Tory charge has been led by Ann Widdecombe, the formidable former Prisons Minister.

Just a week after the Conservatives were being mocked for their clothes sense at their "bonding weekend" in Eastbourne, Miss Widdecombe, a staunch traditionalist with a penchant for check jackets, said: "I have never believed that appearance matters too much. But the new Labour people are obsessed with it. They come to the House of Commons dolled up to the nines in mappropriate short skirts.

"Some of them wear so much makeup they look like over-realous assistants at a department store cosmetics' counter. They do not look like they are at Westminster for serious hard work at all. They are dressed more for the catwalk than the Palace of West-

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The number of Labour women MPs has risen to 101 - compared with the Tories 13 - after positive discrimination in the choice of election candi-dates. Miss Widdecombe was speaking in response to Tory party plans to introduce its own positive discrimination for the first time to encourage more Tory women MPs.

The proposals include compelling Conservative associations to ensure 25 per cent of the candidates called for interview are women, but she said: "I deprecate any form of positive discrimination. If women get to Parliament not by beating all the opposition, as her male colleagues have done, but by having a place reserved for them. there is a danger that they will be perceived as second-class citizens.

"Unfortunately, the behaviour of some of the Labour women has added credence to this. The new intake of women is frightful."

Last month, it emerged that a number of the new women had complained to the Whips about the brusque style of Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, who is renowned for her immaculate but conservative dress sense. Miss Widdecombe was contemptuous. "Absolutely typical. Betty Boothroyd is tough but fair on everyone. These women cannot take it because they have not come through the horrors of the system like we have. They were given apron strings to hang on to because of Labour's



Top, from left Follett and Smith, who said: "Judge us on what we say; below, Brinton, and McIssac, who said: "We try to look professional"



positive discrimination. The dear little souls are not up to it."

Miss Widdecombe shops in Mrs Mop in her Maidstone constituency and at the Army & Navy in London, and wears light unobtrusive make-up. She admits that her lipstick has faded by the middle of the afternoon and always forgets to replace it. When women were scarcer at Westminster,



power-dressing was taken to its extreme with exaggerated shoulder pads, cardigans, pearls and towering, heavily lacquered Thatcher hairstyles. Baroness Thatcher immortalised the don't-show-your-knees skirt. But power suits are now being overtaken by psychedlic pink T-shirts and high-heeled shoes by some at the cutting edge of fashion. Tory MPs have place, not a fashion show."

women "mutton dressed as glam", and one Tory woman said: "The trouble is with some of the new girls they seem more interested in the labels and looking good on television than they do on the legislation. They spend ages in front of the mirror."

But the Labour women were unre-

pentant. Angela Smith, the new Labour MP for Basildon and East Thurrock, laughed out loud when told of Miss Widdecombe's comments, and said: "Ann Widdecombe has fallen into the classic trap of criticising women because of their appearance rather than on what they say. I don't know what the wrong skirt is or the wrong pair of shoes.

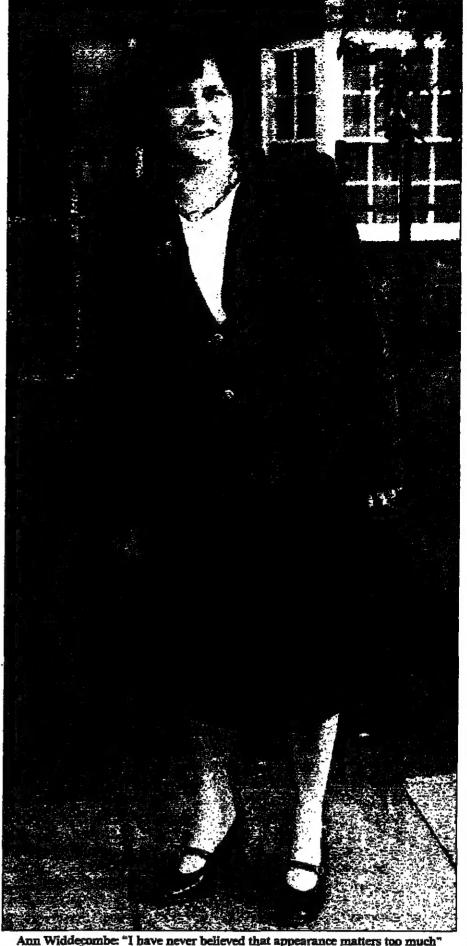
"She is a silly woman. I personally am not a mini-skirt person. But I am surprised that she of all people says these things. I feel sorry for her because she has had to endure some very hurtful things about her own

appearance." Helen Brinton, the MP for Peterborough who has found herself the regular burt of sexual gibes from Tory males, said: "We can mix it and match it just as well as Ann Widdecombe. We don't need lectures on our clothes sense from her, as if what we wear matters anyway. Ann Widdecombe is proof of the pudding. We are judged on our actions. I would not dream of commenting on her dress sense. I shouldn't think anyone would."

The most popular new Labour look was pioneered by Barbara Follet, now MP for Stevenage, who once colourcoded Labour frontbenchers such as Margaret Beckett, and wears matching two-piece suits in brights reds, greens and yellows, with accessories to match. Many favour comfortable

Shona McIsaac, 37, the MP for Cleethorpes, summed up the new image on her first day in the Commons, with a carnel trouser-suit, leopard skin polo-neck, and dark brown brogues with fake snakeskin accessories. She said: "Some of the younger women, because of their age, naturally wear clothes which are perceived to be more fashionable. But all of us try to look professional."

Miss Widdecombe, who has been dubbed Doris Karloff by her political enemies, said that she took comments about her appearance in her stride: "I can take it. They can't. That is the difference. Westminster is a serious



Ann Widdecombe: "I have never believed that appearance matters too much"

Critics look back in anger on Oasis brothers' latest outburst

IF they had been seeking to provoke a reaction they suc-ceeded. Noel and Liam Gallagher served up some oldfashioned rock star loutishness and there were calls for heads to roll yesterday.

The BBC offered apologies and promised investigations, Downing Street made a statement, MPs howled with outrage and one of the brothers chased after reporters while Tony Blackburn offered to fight them in the street.

Trouble started, as often seems to be the way, when Liam Gallagher opened his mouth. He was live on air and the words that issued forth, on the subject of George Harrison and Mick Jagger, were unfit for 8pm. He became so heated during the interview on Radio 1's Evening Session on Thursday that he stormed out of the studio. His brother Noel added to the controversy by advocating the legalisation of

The BBC apologised and said that it had launched an



Liam, left, and Noel Gallagher: turned airwaves blue investigation. Andy Parlitt, tually Liam decided to leave

Radio 1's deputy controller, was meeting Steve Lamacq. the presenter of the show, and his producer about what hap-

A spokesman for Radio I said that only Noel had been expected for the interview, but he had turned up with Liam in producer made every effort behind the scenes to stop them. from swearing. I think he did everything he could to try to calm things down, and even-

the studio."

Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative backbench Media Committee, and a former Radio i producer, said the corporation had acted irre-sponsibly. When a person has a reputation for behaving in ... an immature fashion, tow. "Steve Lamacq and his you don't bother to give them airtime. It's not the BBC's or radio's job to give public airtime to foul-mouthed selfpublicists." Brian Iddon, Labour MP for

uency in which five-year-old Dillon Hull was shot dead in a drugs feud, told the BBC's World at One that he wished Noel Gallagher had not been invited to Downing Street by Tony Blair. Downing Street issued a

statement to the programme: The Government is not in the business of legitimising drugs. There is no association with Noel Gallagher's remarks."

Journalists who approached Liam yesterday did so at their peril. The Press Association reported an encounter between reporters and the singer outside his house. Met with a string of obscenities and informed where he planned to put their cameras, they were chased down the street.

Tony Blackburn, the disc jockey, said: "Let's face it they are a cheap copy band of the Beatles and so juvenile. And all this business about 'offering people out' - well, I'm outside the Capital Radio studios just after l'Oam every weekday if they want to show how tough they are."

Quiet passing for reading room

Robin Young sees the end of an

era for the British Museum's haven

THE 140-year history of the Round Reading Room at the British Museum is ending not with a bang, nor even a whisper. As befits a space. devoted to the pursuit of silent study, the room is reaching the end of an era almost soundlessly.

The reading room closes today, but few readers are final hours. Even yesterday, fewer than a third of the 375 readers' seats were occupied.

Things were very different vien the room first opened to the public in 1857. Then. Antonio Panizzi, its creator and the British Museum's. keeper of printed books, recorded that more than 162,000 visitors came to see it is the first week.

Now, the British Library brilliantly. We are even two

tion with removing 12 million books and myriad other collections to the new premises at St Pancras, is quietly admitting small parties for a parting glimpse of the room. In the new dispensation at the British Museum the room is destined to become an information centre housexpected to be there for the ing the museum's own Paul Hamlyn library of 25,000 volumes. In its new role the

> There is a great deal of sadness, said Michael Crump, the British Library's director of reader services and collections development. "But we have given our readers good notice. As far as the move goes, we are doing

area will be open for the use

of all the museum's visitors.



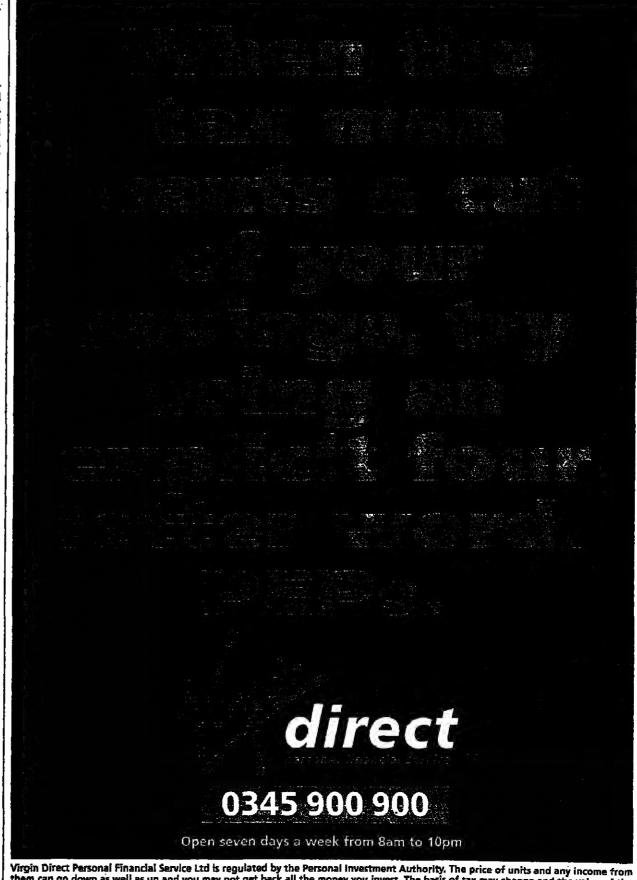
That is small compensation for those few who find that closed and that its St Pancras

until November 24. Raoul Jimenez, from Caracas, said: I have come all the way from Venezuela. I wanted to research the British role in Venezuelan history. For me it is a disaster."

The move is also regarded with some concern by the coffee bars, restaurants and bookshops surrounding the British Museum. "We had the most learned dining tables in London," said a manager at the Coptic Street branch of Pizza Express. Our singles tables were regularly occupied by great scholars from all over the world and now we will not be seeing them again."

Famous reading room users of the past include Karl Marz, Gandhi, Lenin, Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling. and George Bernard Shaw.

> Leading article, page 23 Magazine, page 42



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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

By Damian Whitworth

girls to

fight on

THE first authorised boxing match between two girls has been onsored by a magazine for teenage girls.

Bliss will pay a Carmarthenshire boxing club £300 towards the event next week.

Kerry Parnell, the Editor, said: "If there's a meaning to girl power, this is it. It is not publicity stunt by girls wearing hardly any clothes." Marie Leefe and

Marie Davies from St Clears, Carmarthenshire, are billed to fight two girls from Cornwall and Cardigan. but if either opponent drops out they are determined to fight

Earlier this month wo 13-year-olds were due to fight but one pulled out at the last minute because of

Venables lied in court, judge says

the witness box for two days,

London dub as no more than

a glorified secretary". In fact

Mr Venables said that he did not know that Ashby was a

bankrupt when he asked him

to work at Spurs and at his Kensington club. He said it

was "absolute nonsense" and

very annoying to suggest

Ashby had any management

role while Venables was the

chief executive at White Hart

Lane. "He did not make decisions, he did what I told

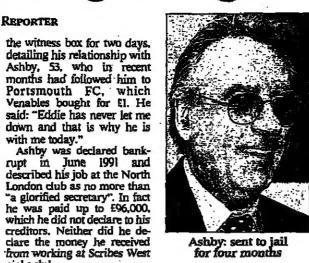
with me today."

A JUDGE yesterday accused Terry Venables of lying on oath as he jailed the former England football coach's closest friend and righthand man. Eddie Ashby was found guilty of managing Tottenham Hot-spur and Mr Venables's drinking club in the West End of London while an undis-

charged bankrupt.
Judge Timothy Pontius said that at best Mr Venables's evidence was "fanciful", but he believed the former England boss had intended "deliberately and dishonestly" to mislead the jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court. Last night Mr Venables said

he was appalled at the judge's remarks. "For the judge to condemn me in the way he has leaves me feeling very bitter towards a system which appears to have convicted me in a case in which I was not on trial. I cannot establish what, in my evidence, the judge took to be dishonest and do not believe he can have considered the effect his unfounded comments will have on me."

Mr Venables had stood in



Ashby: sent to jail for four months

he began chairing manage ment meetings at Spurs and signing letters as "general manager". The court was told that he hired and fired staff and authorised salary rises.

as the judge jailed him for four months, saying: "I take the view that little more than a salutory clanging of the prison doors is necessary." Judge Pontius said that he had

he had had in mind "as an act of mercy, to enable you to be released to your family in time for Christmas".

Ashby was disqualified from being a company director for seven years. This will run alongside the nine-year ban imposed 13 months ago by

the High Court.

The judge told him: "It is a regrettable and sad aspect of this case that you; a person of impeccable character hitherto, chose blatantly to give per-jured evidence before the jury and, more seriously, to call as a wimess on your behalf your boss. Terry Venables, to give evidence which the jury plainly found to be at best fanciful and at worst intended by you both to deliberately and dis-honestly mislead them as to the true position. I have not the slightest hesitation myself

in preferring the second view." Court officials said last night that no action was contemplated against Mr Venables. The judge's clerk said if he had planned such a move, he would have announced it in open court. Ashby is to appeal.



Terry Venables outside the court. He said he was appalled at the judge's remarks

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Terrorism expert is blown up by war souvenir

counter-terrorism has been killed by a battlefield souvenir that exploded at his home.

John Pimlott, 49, the head of
War Studies at the Royal

Military Academy, Sand-hurst, was discovered by his wife yesterday morning lying dead in the sitting room of their bungalow in Camberley.

ered to be definitive books on warfare. He was recently featured in the Channel 4 series Decisive Battles.

Last night an army spokesman said: This seems to have been a tragic accident. The device that exploded may not have been as hig as a grenade. It may have been a rusting and seemingly innocuous piece of ordinance such as an old and apparently harmless

"Dr Pimlott made numerous tours of old battlefields and he may have picked up this item to remind him of a trio to El Alamein or some other famous site."

After his wife raised the larm, police and army bomb disposal experts went to the home and houses in the area were evacuated as police earched for more explosives.

One neighbour, Les Brown, had heard a small explosion before midnight but had going off. He said: "I didn't check it out because you expect

vas minor with only a small window blown out. Police officers who exam-

ined the home disovered a

AN EXPERT on warfare and huge array of military memo-counter-terrorism has been rabilia but none of it was found to be dangerous. Dr Pimlott, a father of two.

was a civilian lecturer at Sandhurst for 24 years. He was made head of his department in 1994. Last night, Matthew Midlane, the director of studies at Sandhurst, described Dr Pirnlott as a tles of the Vietnam War and The Guinness History of the

areas were counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism. Mr Midlane said: "He was extremely well-known for his prelific output with popular writings on almost any aspect of 20th-century warfare. He brought serious military hist-

British Army. His specialist

He added: "Despite his distinguished record in research and writing, he always consid-

ory to a much



\$ (017 th 14

Two appear in court over car crash deaths

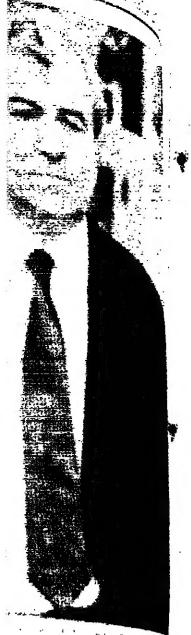
tion with the deaths of a young couple in a car crash.

Jason Humble and Keith Collier, both of Farmborough. Hampshire, were remanded in custody by magistrates in Feltham, West London Mr Humble, 32, was charged with manslaughter after Toby Exley and Karen Martin died on October 6. The comple's car of manslanghter.

TWO men appeared in court crossed the ceptral reservation yesterday charged in connec of the A316 and smashed into

an oncoming car. Mr Collier, 49, was charged with assisting an offender by falsely reporting to police the theft of a vehicle knowing it had been involved in a fatal accident, with intent to impede the apprehension or prosecution of a person who had committed the arrestable offence





Terroris expertis Jown up Nat souver

How Benllech's 'Randy Rev' fell from grace

been known in the Welsh seaside village as the "Randy Rev" for more than a decade, Villagers grew used to seeing his car parked outside the home of one or another of his vomen parishioners.

Rumours circulated among clergy in the Church in Wales about the Rev Clifford Williams's sexual adventures among his flock faster than his reputation for building his mission at St Andrew's Church on the back of charismatic leadership.

The whispers reached the ears of the then Archdeacon of Merrionnydd, Dr Barry Morgan, who, five years ago, was appointed Bishop of Bangor and on whose desk the scandal charges have been burning a sulphurous hele for more than

Dr. Morgan, along with other church leaders, came to believe that Mr Williams's sexual conquests were the outward manifestations of a cult comparable with the sexual terror dispensed by the Rev Chris Brain, the minister at the centre of scandal over the Nine O'Clock News Service. who expelled anyone who came into conflict with him, denounced his enemies from the pulpit and interpreted his role as pastor as a sexual licence among middle-aged parishioners he came to think of as his "wives".

The real victims of the quaint proceedings of the Pro-vincial Court — which has made the Church in Wales a Russell Jenkins on a village

rumour mill that took years to

grind out an unpalatable truth

becoming Rector of the parish of Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf

with Llanbedrgoch in 1982.

his supporters speak about how he galvanised the congre-gation at St Andrew's Church

- an uninspiring grey pebble dash block on Benilech's one

main road - with his sense of

mission and his modern inter-

pretation of the Gospels. He and his childhood sweetheart

Gwenda raised their three

sons, Alan, now 26, Paul, 21, and Matthew, 16, in a two-storey rectory overlooking the

Mr Williams, a touchy

feely" vicar known as Uncle Clifford to his younger flock,

was at the centre of a growing

and vibrant church. At the

same time the rumours began

to circulate that he was an

laughing stock and cost of loyalists who remain unterly convinced that their leader is more sinned against than sinning. Dr Morgan said: "It will take a long time to heal the wounds because you don't recover from this sort of thing in a day or even a week. It will take years, I think, because the wounds have gone very deep. Some feel deeply betrayed."

Mr Williams was a late

entry into the priesthood, leaving his early calling as a painter and decorator to pursue his vocation. He was ordained in 1980 at the age of. 32, served two years as a curate at Caernarvon before

> adulterer who sought to manipulate people's lives. At least two husbands blamed the rector for the break-up of their marriages but it was not until Iris Green, vulnerable and unpredictable, came to live in Tyn-y-Gongl, Benllech, in 1989 that the volatile mixture of muscular Christianity and extramarital

affairs ignited. Dr Morgan says Mr Williams abused his position as

fact that over the years anyone who disagreed with him [Williams] in the church has left to go to neighbouring parishes; among them a curate, an organist and church warden. He seems to have power

and influence over people to an inordinate degree. For some people, perhaps, it be-comes so much a part of them - it gives them power, status and privilege — they forget they are there to serve the Church of God."

Another senior churchman described the rector as a dangerous "Svengali" who nakedly sought power in the small, very Welsh community under the guise of the charming clergyman with the Antho-ny Hopkins voice. He enjoyed domination and ruthlessly snuffed out any opposition. A senior Church source in

Wales described the case as more serious than someone just having sex. "Clifford Williams is an intensely evil man." he said, "You had there a charismatic priest and, certainly, this man could swing it with women. His scheme was divide and rule. His motivation clearly has to be power

over women.
"It clearly has to be power which has to be absolute and which has been for his sexual gratification. Some of the women he knows simply bow down before him. His supporters are verging on being

THE MIDLANDS



The Rev Clifford Williams arriving at the court yesterday. He was later found guilty of conducting an adulterous affair

'Just cause for scandal or offence'

Continued from page 1 for him, nor do we eat together. I regard the marriage as at an end. I anticipate instigating divorce proceedings in the near future. Finally, as a result of the break-down, I have found a new relationship."

Lord Thomas, QC, counsel for the bishop, told the court in his closing address that the case has demonstrated the courage of Iris Green on one hand and the cowardice of Mr Williams on the other. "The Rev Clifford Williams has led

community and to his parishioners and has clearly won the support of very decent people, some of whom are here today perhaps not fully understanding of the other side of his life, which was a life of deceit and of lies."

Lord Thomas highlighted Mrs Green's diaries and the notes he left at her house as overwhelming evidence against him. One note, urging Mrs Green to "keep Thursday bonk-free for me", showed he was going to her house to have sex.

said the defence was one of complete denial "lock, stock and barrel". Mrs Green was obsessional and the kind of woman who wrote "disgusting porno-graphic letters" to a pen friend. He said there was evidence from one of the parishioners that she had written erotic

In the case of Anne Williams, the court found the rector did not "on the balance of probabilities" give just cause for

Clergy divorce rate has caught up with society

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE number of divorces not entitled to any of her among the clergy is now the according to Broken Rites, an independent organisation that was set up to help divorced and separated partners of the

About four in ten clergy marriages can now be expected to end in divorce, even though the Church of England still holds that marriage is for life and does not recognise that es cam de dissolved.

Christine McMullen, secretary of Broken Rites, which has 300 divorced and separated clergy wives on its books, and hundreds more who contact it occasionally for help and advice, said clergy marriages often collapsed because of the unique pressures of the

Clergy wives are particular-ly vulnerable when marriages break up near or after retirement. Under church pension

former husband's pension. Mrs McMullen, whose own marriage to a dergyman broke up eight years ago, said: * Sometimes it is harder for families in the vicarage to have close personal friends in the parish because the person-al and professional life of the

husband gets a bit confused. The expectations put on families are sometimes so way our. Lots of people's husbands us. Dutine press is not really interested unless there is a dergyman

"There is often pressure to carry on with a stiff upper lip, to collude with what is going on. We are less likely to shred his shirts, change the locks or refuse to let him in than if we were not living in a vicarage. There is this thing as well that we are Christians, and that we

Although clergy training was improving, theological

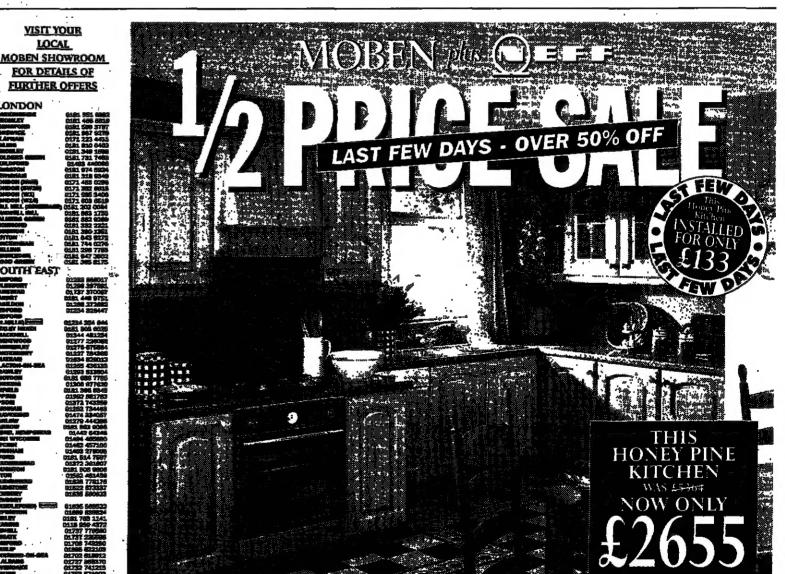
pared for the pressures of a mid-life crisis, or of failing to achieve their ambitions to become archdeacons or bish-

There is an expectation that clergy will be counsellors and freely available at all times for people in need," Mrs McMullen said.

There has to be some degree of self-giving and of sharing your partner with

dergy are quite clear in their minds about where the boundaries of professional behaviour begin and end.

They might have a moment of self-doubt in mid-life, of wondering whether they will ever be made an archdeacon, and not realise that this makes them vulnerable when someone comes in to see them in deep distress who happens to be marriageable and attrac-





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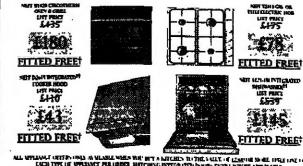
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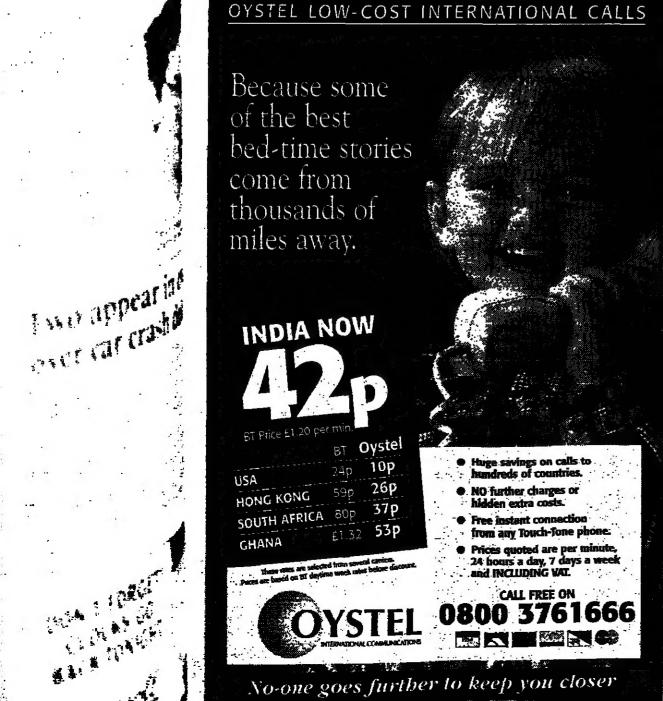
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Umbria, home of the arts, pleads for aid

Richard Owen reports from Spoleto that damage done

by recent earthquakes is far worse than first thought

verberating a month after the earthquake that severely dam-aged the Basilica of St Francis at Assisi, it is emerging that far many more art treasures in Umbria are at serious risk than was previously thought.

They include the great cathedral at Spoleto, famed for its summer arts festival, and world-renowned Renaissance frescoes at Montefalco.

"Umbria, home of the arts, is weeping and deeply wounded," La Repubblica said. "It is not just Assisi which has been shaken by the tremors. We need to raise the alarm." The Archbishop of Spoleto, Mgr Riccardo Fontana, said recent inspections showed that the lith-century Duomo, or cathedrai, had suffered very serious damage in the continuing

Archbishop Fontana is aggrieved that destruction in the Spoleto area has been over-shadowed. The Bishop of Assisi naturally has had a lot to say about the damage there," he said. "But nobody can say that this part of Umbria is worse off than that part, or deserves more help. Four villages in my diocese, including Sellano, the epi-centre of the recent earth-quakes, have been destroyed. The earthquakes shake the whole mountain."

The epicentre of the earthquakes, initially near Foligno. has moved gradually south. with tremors felt in Rome and even Naples. There were further strong tremors at Sellano on Thursday and yesterday. The Archbishop's Palace in Spoleto has been declared uninhabitable, and Mgr Fontana, who for the first few nights of the crisis slept in his car, like thousands of other residents, has taken refu a nearby monastery.

Perched high on a hill. Spoleto was once the centre of a powerful duchy, until it was sacked by Barbarossa in 1155. It revived in the 16th century when Lucrezia Borgia was made governor at the age of 19 by her father. Pope Alexander VI. Its modern fame rests on the Festival of Two Worlds, the music, dance and theatre festival founded by Giancarlo Menotti in 1958, which attracts world-class performers and march. Gala concerts are held in the cathedral.

Two of the four pillars



The exterior of Spoleto's 11th-century cathedral. The archbishop says £1 million is needed to shore it up

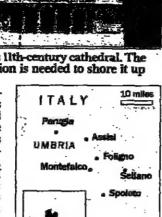
holding up the cathedral cupola have sagged and a third is badly cracked. Art experts and engineers say the fall of the cupola would destroy priceless frescoes by the Florentine artist Fra Filippo Lippi (1406-69), above all the masterpiece of his final years, his Coronation of the Virgin (1469), which is painted in the apse semidome.

The cathedral also contains the painter's tomb: a friar, he was accused of seducing a girl from a noted local family and is said to have been murdered by her relations. He did his last work at Spoleto, including a series of frescoes in the choir which are also now thought to be at risk: The Annunciation, The Birth of Christ and The

he cathedral's medieval buttresses are fractured and the facade, with a giant depicting Christ mosaic depicting Christ Pantocrator, dated 1207, has come away from the fabric of the building. There are fissures in the 15th-century Eroli chapels (named after the bish op of the time, Costantino Eroli), which contain frescoes by Pinturicchio (1455-1513), including a Madonna and Child with Lake Trasimeno - one of the best-loved spots in Umbria shown clearly in the

"Something must be done immediately," the archbishop said. "The walls, pilasters and buttresses are tilting, the stability of the entire building is threatened." He said Spoleto needed £1 million "to shore it up and avoid the worst. It is a race against time; we are worried about new tremors." Nearly 800 churches in the

background.

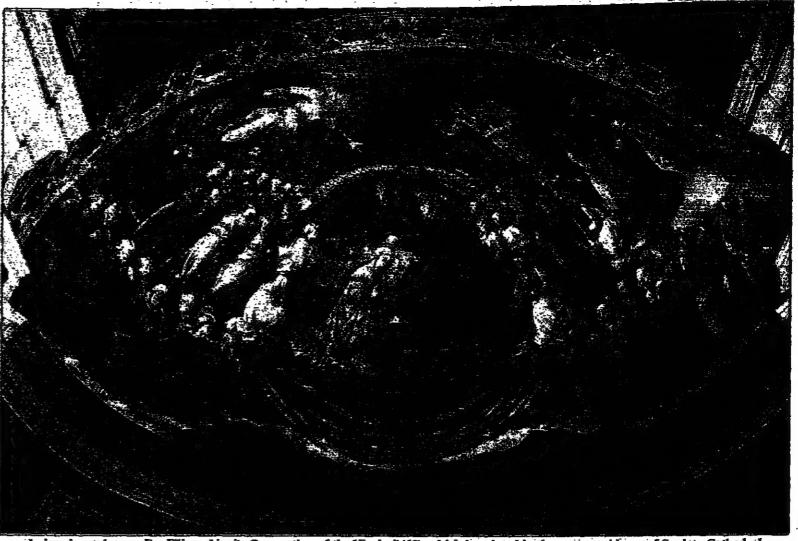


Spoleto diocese "of artistic and historic importance" have been closed for inspection. There is also concern for the spectacular medieval aqueduct across the gorge beyond the cathedral, the Ponte delle Torri, which is 260 yards long and supported by ten 260ft-

Twelve miles north, nearer

to the epicentre of the first earthquakes at Foligno, emergency measures have been taken to save the 15th-century frescoes at Montefalco by Benozo Gozzoli (1420-97). which were restored only seven years ago. The works denict scenes from the life of St. Francis, inspired by Giotto's frescoes at Assisi, with recognisable Umbrian and Tuscan landscapes in the background. Montefalco is famed for its views - it is dubbed "The Balcony of Umbria" — and its Sangrantino wine is one of the most prized

reds in Italy. But its glory is the former Church of San Francesco, now the town museum. In addition to works by Gozzoli, who, like Lippi was a Florentine genius, the former church boasts an



In imminent danger: Fra Filippo Lippi's Coronation of the Virgin (1469), which is painted in the apse semidome of Spoleto Cathedral





Details from the Coronation, Filippo Lippi's masterpiece of his last years: left, two angels dancing and, right, the Virgin with God the Father

Annunciation and Nativity by Perugino, and frescoes from the school of Giotto.

The campaign to preserve Montefalco's treasures is being led by Luigi Gambacurta, the Mayor, who teaches literature at the local secondary school and speaks of Gozzoli as if he were still alive. Signor Gambacurta is praised as a local hero for his swift

action in shoring up the frescoes when the first earthquake

The first shock was in the middle of the night," he recalled. "At first light I went to the school to check it was all right. Then I rushed to San Francesco and was horrified to see the amount of plaster that had fallen in the apse." He asked art restorers from Spoleto to erect scaffolding to support the nave, with the help of local carpenters. We got it in place just before the second earthquake struck at 11.42, the same one that brought down the ceiling at Assisi. Here the

scaffolding swayed, but it The museum is planning to take visitors up onto the scaffolding to see how restoration

work on Gozzoli's masterpieces is proceeding. However, there is still pro-

tective gauze over the frescoes and there are fears for the roof, in particular for the vault above the apse, whose ribs were reinforced with iron bars after an earthquake earlier in the century.

"Many jewels of art in class performent
Umbria are at risk, but the for restoration.

pity is that not many Italians are aware of them," Paola Manuali, a guide at San Francesco, said. We get 20,000 visitors a year at the museum, but many of them are foreigners on the Umbrian art trail." Signor Menotti said that he hoped to organise a concert at Spoleto with topclass performers to raise funds



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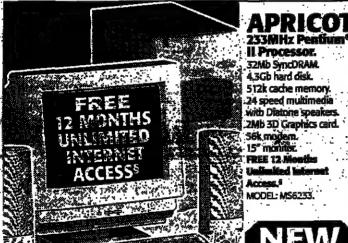
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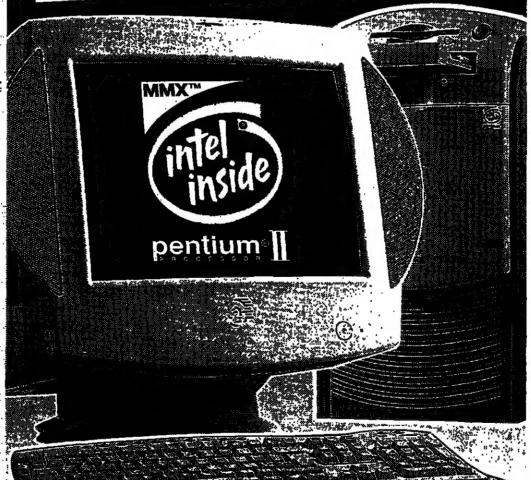
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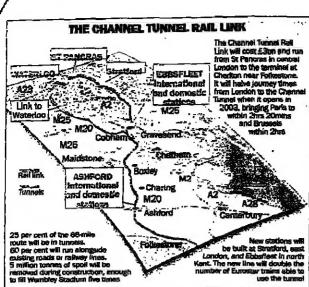
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Threatened dormouse sent packing





evellanarius). Britain's only golder cloured rodent. Nocturnal and arboreal, lives around five years. Two litters a year of two to nine naked, blind babies. Forms a tightly woven spherical nest 1-2m above the ground. Hibernates underground



Slow worm (Anguis fragilis). Neither a worm nor a snake but a lizard with no legs. Average 12 Inches long and found in leaf litter on churchyards and railway embankments. Long tail breaks off if caught hold of by small boys or other predators. Harmless but has



black and white striped brock once

persecuted by farmers and batted for sport. The principal ingredient in

favourite food is earthwomps. Badge

setts can have up to 40 entrance and be inhabited for generations.

badger-hair shaving brushes

Great created newt (Triburus cristatus). Amphibian often spec with brightly coloured spots. Once feared by country folk who believes it to be related to a dragon and to six inches long and male sports decline owing to drainage of ponds



Viviperous lizard (Lacerta vivipera). Common lizard enjoys basking on dry sumny banks and eating insects. Very hard to catch owing to dramatic turn of speed and ability to shed tall, which carries on wriggling long after

Tunnel rail link

is a moving experience for wildlife,

reports Simon de Bruxelles

BEATRIX POTTER would have been dismayed to learn that since the start of the summer, in conditions of the utmost secrecy, some of our shyest and most attractive residents have been rounded up and put in cages.

She would have been relieved, however, to discover that they are being moved because they live on the route of the new high-speed rail link to the Channel Tunnel.

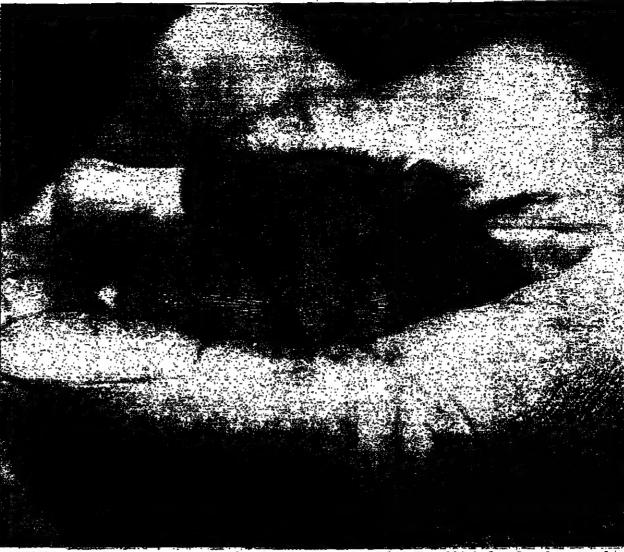
Top of the wanted list is a creature most people will never see but everyone loves — the common dormouse. The line from London will cut a swath through some of the best dormouse woods" in Britain. Nearly 100 of the creatures have been caught and dispatched to a dormouse dormitory in the West Country.

Kent's loss is the rest of the country's gain. Once the mice have slept through the winter. they will be released in woods in three English counties where dormice were common 100 years ago but have since

Douglas Woods, 76, a naturalist who has devoted the past 18 years to studying and breeding the creatures, is in charge of the operation. Until he discovered in the early 1980s that the best way to find a dormouse was to provide a house for it, little was known about its habits.

Although the dormouse's tight, round nest is occasionally found in undergrowth by woodsmen, doormice are rarely seen and leave few clues to their existence. Mr Woods, from Cheddar, Somerset, said: Dormice are nocturnal and spend virtually all their time in the trees. They might range from the topmost branches of the highest oak down to bracken, but they never set foot on the ground unless it is by

wood every day and never see believed that they hibernated



This heavyweight dormouse preparing for winter in Somerset weighed 47g, which is thought to be a record

know that they actually move away from trees into bollows under moss or ivy which provides insulation when the temperature falls.

Other protected creatures, including badgers, great crest-ed newts, slow-worms and common lizards are also being found new homes. Four artificial setts have been built for the badgers and they are expected to move in of their own accord. The newts have proved elusive. Of about ten breeding sites identified during an environmental study of the route in 1993, more than half have vanished. Low rainfall is blamed. The dormouse round-up

has produced one record breaker. The average adult



A dormouse nesting box at a secret location is checked

breeding herd, it is now known that a dormouse preparing for winter can double its weight in days. The feeding

tain comes down with the first hard frost. Then their food

disappears, all the insects die and the blackberries and other autumn fruits are past a from ory. Any animal the

before construction work begins next year is running out. The special licence issued by the Department of the Environment expires at the end of the month. Dozens of nesting. boxes have been placed in trees and every couple of weeks each one is checked for new residents by Pat Thompson, who works for an envi-

at Maidstone. The biggest relocation programme in dormouse history has been kept under wraps because of the threat of animal rights protests or people looking for an unusual pet. Beatrix Potter's dormice

ronmental consultancy based

sold peppermints and candles, but preferred to stay in bed all. Coments Ribeiro was mistakday. When customers com-

NEWS IN BRIEF Cab driver accused of raping girl, 13

in a solution of the solution

A taxi driver accused of the triple rape of a 13-year-old girl in his black cab was remanded in custody for a week by Bow Street magistrates in London yesterday. Peter Goddard, 40, of Benfleet. Essex, unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and one of March 23 and 24. The girl had been visiting London from her home in Southampton to meet Brian Harvey, the former member of the pop group

Boys rewarded

Three boys aged seven to nine were given good citizen's awards and £50 each for handing in £300 dropped by two armed robbers whom they followed from a Middlesbrough post office after a hold-up.

Youngest pervert

A boy aged 14 became the youngest on the paedophile register after admitting assaults on two eight-year-old boys. Yeovil magistrates made a supervision order and bound over his parents to ensure his good behaviour.

US sale allowed

The Government has given the go-ahead for Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, of Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, to sell Temps Calme by Poussin to the Getty Museum in California for £15 million. No British buyer had been found.

Murder charge

Graham Sate, 24, has been remanded in custody by magistrates at Great Yarmouth. Norfolk, charged with murdering five-year-old Lauren Creed Her mother, Sharon. was remanded on ball on a cruelty charge.

Design flaw

eavelope for the ceremony at

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Enter, aged 50, the motherly, mellow Hillary

BY the time the helicopter carrying Hillary Clinton lifts off the South Lawn at the White House next week for her low-key visit to Ireland. and London, her makeover as America's caring First Lady

will be all but complete. Tomorrow she celebrates her 50th birthday with an unofficial White House party before a two-day, very public trip to Chicago complete with gala and fireworks.

She will even appear as a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show before returning to Washington for the transatsortie to Dublin, Belfast and London. Only months ago this was a woman who took private walks around the American capital, consulted the depths of her Christian faith. and channelled via guru to Eleanor Roosevelt and Mahatma Gandhi.

The healthcare programme she had championed and whose failure was partly to blame for the overwhelming defeat of Democrats in the mid-term elections of 1994 was still viewed as an irredeemable Achilles' heel preventing her return to policymaking.

Her personal standing, at once provoking fierce loyalty among women and intense hatred among many men, had forced Mrs Chinton to retreat into seclusion throughout the period of her husband's reelection last year. There was regular talk that she would be

Mrs Clinton has after her husband's trium thrown off her dauntingly chilly,

image, reports **Tom Rhodes**

as she was known throughout the Administration's first term, has returned as Mellow Mother, a leading figure who no longer trades insults with members of Congress but prefers to make her point by ruffling the hair of a toddler in a day-care centre.

This week she embraced child care, drawing attention to the "silent crisis" which affects every American parent. It was she who had worked closely behind the scenes to develop her husband's new policy, one which, as with so much of his Administration, has concentrated on minor initiatives with little investment. But it has, nevertheless, given Mrs Clinton the oppor-tunity to flex her considerable brain once again.

Even her wardrobe has been transformed from the arch, power-dressing reds and greens of the past to the pastel shades of Oscar de la Renta. The many hairstyles, which two years ago she claimed resulted from her boredom, have now settled into a neat and carefully blow-dried cut.

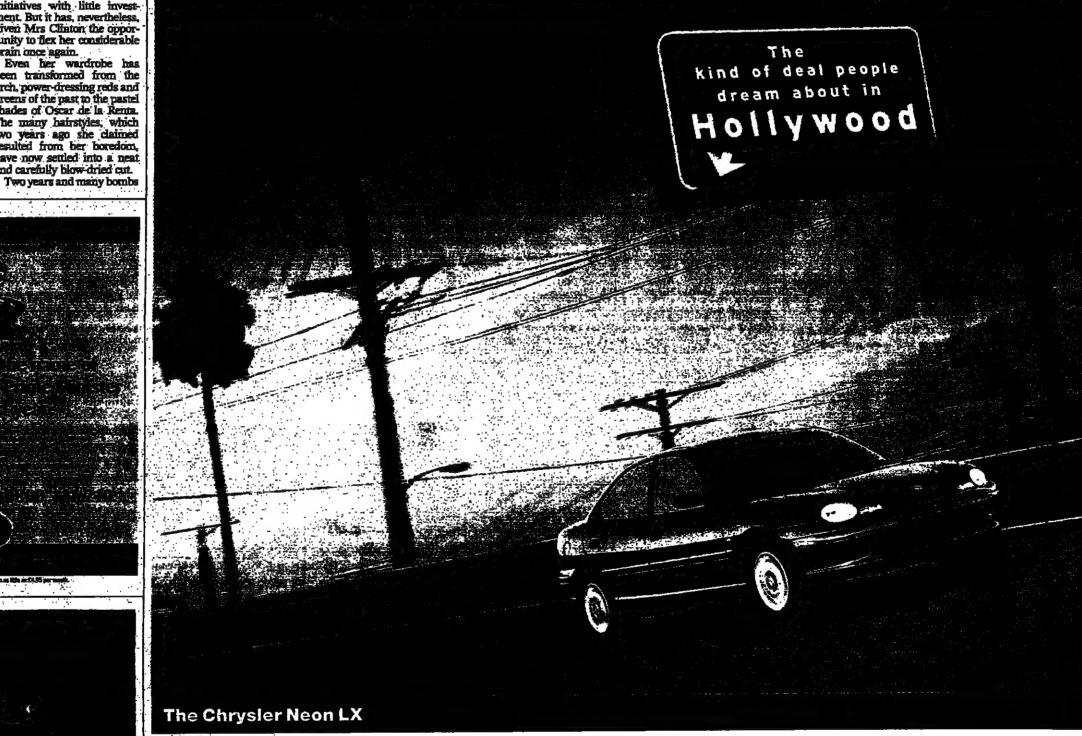
phant visit to Ireland, Mrs Clinton will test the waters of peace when she delivers the first Joyce McCartan Memorial lecture in Belfast, a series devoted to both unity and leadership among Protestant and Catholic women. She will also travel to Chequers for an evening with the Blairs.

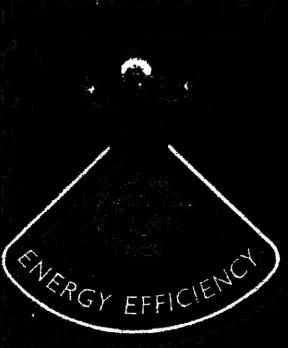
Like her husband, Mrs Clinton will be far from retiring age when the couple finally leave the White House and, while she has told friends that she and Bill Clinton might become itinerant coll-ege professors based in Arkansas (she hates the cold of Chicago), few believe such a task would be completely satisfying. But for the moment, Hillary Chinton is happy to be back in a less

Leading article, page 23



Back in the spotlight: Hillary Clinton, accompanying her husband at this week's conference on child care at the White House where the President pledged to make such services more affordable. She has worked hard behind the scenes to develop the President's new policy





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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

TELLER

'Why a Scots lady can no longer bank on privacy

Britain's only branch for women

is to close, reports Shirley English

THERE were always certain subjects that a lady did not like to discuss in mixed com-pany. Her financial situation. for example. But times change, and it seems that men are everywhere these days. Even Britain's only all-women bank is having to close at the end of next week.

The Ladies Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland was established in 1964 to cater for Edinburgh wives who pre-ferred not to conduct their finances with rhembers of the opposite sex. It still has 1.500 customers. They have been invited to moutin its passing during its final five days, with wine and mibbles in the

branch's coffee lounge over-looking Princes Street.

According to the bank's chiefs, the branch is no longer viable and has confired in use. The number of callers has fallen to an average of 50 a day: women are no longer intimidated by bank managers or dependent on husbands.

When the Ladies Branch opened it was regarded as revolutionary. David Alexander, general manager, pickedup the idea from New Zea-land. The all-female staff headed by Scotland's first woman bank manager, Mar-garet Reld — added to the appeal for well-to-do Edinburgh wives and widows un-

Banished were banking's age-old decorative formula of

parts marble and six parts cream paintwork. In its place were plush green carpets, gold hand-printed floral wallpaper and velvet curtains, set off with flowers and soft music.

Best of all, the branch at 144 Princes Street was conveniently sited next door to Binns (now House of Fraser). Ladies could not only replenish their purse with up to £10 on demand, but could also refresh their make up in the blue powder room.

If they chose, they could then join in the gentle murmur of gossip over a free cup of collee or tea served in china cups on a silver tray by a waitress. Women's magazines and a tree telephone with leather-bound directory were all an essential part of the

The branch has since moved since gone, replaced by plastic cups and a coffee machine, despite genteel protests. Seventy per cent of clients are retired. The decor is now standard corporate style and the branch even has a small number of male customers who infiltrated via joint accounts. But the magazines and the personal welcome are still

Although a lot quieter than its heyday in the 1970s when it had 3,000 accounts, the lefriving to transact business



Sheila Wylie seeks advice on the changes. She said:
"It is going to be so busy with all those awful quenes"

from return.

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Free tea or coffee in china cups, and free phone calls made amid hand-printed wallpaper and velvet drapes were all part of the service. Right, how the bank was advertised

ing in during their lunch-break, the lack of queues was a welcome alternative to the busy flow of custom in the main bank two floors below, which the ladies accounts will be transerred.

Yesterday, discreetly givin her age as "over 21", she said "It's sad it's closing and I will miss it, but times move on. When it opened, women per-haps hesitated to go into a Jessie Alexander, widow of bank and rather liked the idea of a lady manager they could

nioneered the branch, was the talk to, but now they go into banks all the time, don't they? first to open an account there. Although some ladies guiltiadmitted to doing most of their banking by phone or machine these days, others were less than happy with the change. Sheila Wylie, 69, a former minister's wife, said: "I

than downstairs. It is going to he so busy with all those awful queues." Elizabeth Fraser, the third customer to join in 1964, said: "It is a great shame. I know all the girls [tellers] and I meet friends here. All the other branches are the same as each other. I don't think its

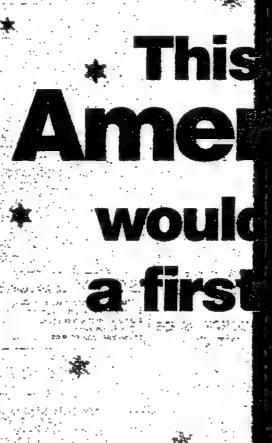
want this sort of service." Betty Johnson, 53, the longest serving staff member, has been erseeing the final days and will take on the role of "meeter-greeter downstairs to welcome the ladies to their new branch. She said: "Everyone is

ATTENTION TO THAT-

MONT TELL A SOUL

to in a day.

But Vicki Wilkinson, the Royal Bank archivist, said: The Ladies Branch was ahead of its time. It led the way with new standards of caught up and it is no longer



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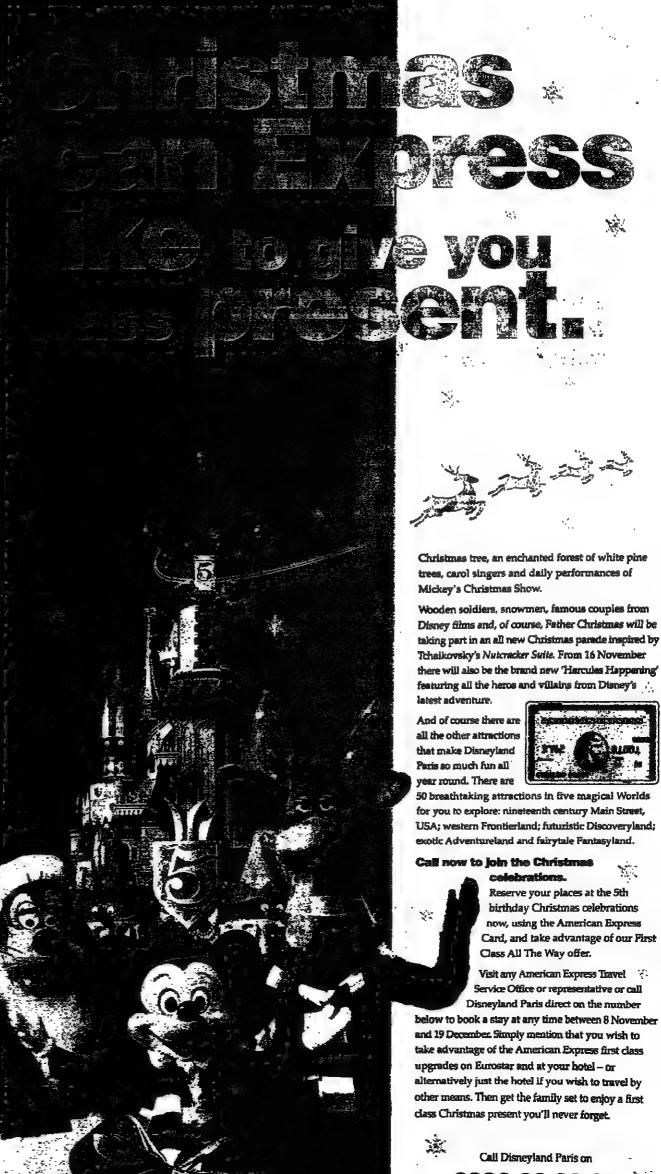
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Human rights to be part of UK law

Citizens will have redress in British courts, Richard Ford reports

HUMAN RIGHTS are to be enshrined in British law under government proposals published yesterday that will allow people to seek redress in UK courts rather than in Europe. Public authorities will have to operate in a way that does not breach the European Convention on Human Rights,

The move is expected to lead to the introduction of a judge-made privacy law, a possibili-ty acknowledged by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. who emphasised that it would be balanced by the article in the convention guaranteeing freedom of expression. People who believe their

rights have been violated will be able to bring legal proceed-ings against public authorities, such as Government and the police. But the Human Rights Bill does not give the courts power to "strike down" existing laws where they conflict with the convention.

Instead, where there is a conflict. Parliament will be able to amend legislation by positive resolutions in both the Commons and Lords. If the Government refuses to change legislation, an individual will still be able to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

Mr Straw told a press conference that it was "an historic day" for the rights of the Brit-



Jack Straw with his Human Rights Bill yesterday

ban on discrimination.

Under the Bill, coincidental-

ly published on the day that

the UK lost its fiftieth case at

Strasbourg, the UK courts will

have to interpret the law in

line with the convention as far

as possible. Damages award-

ed to individuals are likely to

be in the region of between

torture; a ban on slavery and since 1689 that there will have forced labour; the right to a been a British Bill of Rights. fair trial; a right to respect for The UK had a major role in private and family life; freedrafting the convention and dom of thought, conscience was the first to ratify it in 1951. and religion; freedom of ex-But we have been almost alone pression; freedom of assemin Europe in not incorporating bly; the right to marry; and a

it into our own law." Mr Straw said that the Bill would allow citizens to enforce their rights against public authorities directly in the UK courts and obtain a remedy more quickly than hitherto. Under current arrangements, it takes about five years and costs £30,000 for a case to be

heard at Strasbourg The 18 articles of the conven-

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declaration that the measures comply with the convention's

bring court challenges.

The proposals were welcomed by civil liberties groups which have long campaigned for the convention to be incorporated into British law, Ben Emmerson, a barrister and editor of the European Human Rights Law Review, said: "For the first time, individuals will have a code of rights that is legally enforceable against

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a Liberal Democrat peer and eminent QC, was delighted that, for the first time in 300 years, a government was introducing a measure "where our civil and political rights

our own system". Sir Brian Mawhinney, Shadow Home Secretary, attacked the proposals, saying that judges would be able to tell Parliament what laws to pass. The 1689 Bill of Rights, deal-

central provisions.

But legal aid will not be available for those bringing cases, and the Government has ruled out for the time being the creation of a Human Rights Commission that would assist individuals to

the State, covering issues from ill-treatment in custody to privacy and freedom

followed the invitation to Wil-liam of Orange and his wife Mary to accept the Throne in place of the Roman Catholic James II. It enacted the earlier Declaration of Rights which are going to be guaranteed by set out the liberties established by the Glorious Revolution of 688, declaring illegal the arbitrary use of royal power, and limited the succession to ex-

Leading article, page 23

clude Roman Catholics.

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ATTREME ISSUITED formal sice

Patient held for three years wins recompense

patient is to receive compensation after the Government was found guilty yesterday of breaching his human rights by detaining him for three years even after he was free from mental illness.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that it had been wrong to hold Stanley Johnson, 50, in Rampton top security hospital after he was free from the symptoms of

mental illness. Mr Johnson, from Leicester, was sent to the Nottingham-shire hospital in 1984 after being convicted of assaulting a woman in the street. It was his fifth conviction for assault and he was found to be suffering from schizophrenia superimposed on a psychopathic

in 1989 the Mental Health Review Tribunal was told that mental illness and recommended his release to a hostel. His release was delayed until a place could be found. But a year later he was still in hospital because hostels objected to his history of alcohol abuse and attacks on women.

In September 1990 he began a trial leave at a less-secure psychiatric hospital, but within a few weeks was returned to Rampton after he assaulted another patient during a visit to a public house.

The Mental Health Review Tribunal was told in April 1991 that though Mr Johnson was not mentally ill he was likely

KEY BRITISH DEFEATS IN EUROPE

The European Convention on Human Rights, adopted in the aftermath of the Second World War, came into force in 1953. The UK ratified it in 1951 but it was not until 1966 that British citizens were given the right to take cases to the European Commission of Human Rights. Since then Britain has suffered a series of defeats in the European Court with far-reaching effects on press freedom and corporal punishment

In 1979 the Court ruled that the British Government had been wrong to block publication in The Sunday Times of reports about children whose mothers had taken thalldomide during pregnancy.

Birching in the Isle of Man was ended in 1978 after a Court rolling, and in 1982 the Court rolled against

corporal punishment in state schools.

May 1985: three women from Malawi, the Philippines and Sri Lanka successfully challenged immigration laws that denied their husbands

automatic entry into Britain.

April 1988: the killer Jimmy Boyle won a claim that letters were unlawfully interfered with in jail. October 1990: three sex offenders won a ruling forcing a review of the way life sentence prisoners are released on Bernee and then recalled. three IRA bombers by the SAS in Gibraltar was a

violation of their human rights under the February 1996: the Court rules that the Home Secretary should no longer have the power to detain

to "explode" if he began using alcohol or drugs, and that he had resisted treatment for his difficulties with intoxicants. His release was again delayed but in 1993 he was discharged and has not since been convicted of any crimes or relapsed into mental illness. Andrew Bergman, Mr.

child killers indefinitely.

Johnson's solicitor, said that the Government would have to pay compensation, but the amount had still to be settled.

"The significance is not only for Mr Johnson but also for other people who are in this position where tribunals have said they should move on," he

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WHILE Commonwealth leaders were engaged in bilateral meetings yester-day morning, their wives

went shopping.
Delegations departed from hotels, accompanied by their female police escorts, known as the "Spouse Girls", to browse around shops in Princes Street or take in a few of the sights, the favourite being Edinburgh Castle. With free time at a

premium in a schedule bristling with official dinners and social engagements, there was a short panic when Grace Mu-gabe, the wife of the Zimbabwean President, was grounded at the Sheraton Hotel by her "Spouse Giri". Mrs Mugabe was told she could not take her six-month-old son in the car without a baby seat. One was duly summoned.

One spouse, whom police refused to name. chose not to brave the chill Scottish weather and got a department store to come to her. She bought a coat

Three of the wives, however, had official engagements. Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife, and Bunmi Anyaoku, the wife of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, opened the Commonwealth Family Pestival at Princes Street gardens. . A couple of blocks away,

Graca Machel was making her debut in Scotland as the official companion to President Mandela at an art competition prizegiving for Commonwealth

Mrs Machel, widow of a Mozambican President, had insisted she would not have come if it were not a working visit. Over the next few days, she will attend meetings on landand - children's rights. Shopping and sight-seeing were not on her agenda, she said.

'Spouse Girls' Blair shows off COMMON-WEALTH? pop out 'new Britain' to with the wives foreign leaders

TO the strains of bongo music and the flickering of a giant video screen Tony Blair yester-day welcomed more than 50 Commonwealth leaders to what he called a new young Britain that was modern, enterprising, outward and compassionate.

He told presidents and prime ministers at the Commonwealth opening ceremony that in Britain the elite was finished. There was a new identity. "The new Britain is a meritocracy where we break down the barriers of class, religion, race and culture." He said Britain's aim now was to combine a creative modern economy, able to compete in the global market, with a decent, one-nation society. Britain was to be a country for all the people, not a privileged few.

His remarks followed an extraordinary video and music and dance display, in which even the national anthem had a jazzy twang. The Queen and national leaders: looked on bemused as a slick promotional video extolled Britain's hi-tech achievements and raced through its econom-

Even the Queen's position as head of the Commonwealth was introduced with shots of her through her reign travelling to far-off lands and watch-

Labour unveils global blueprint, report Michael **Binyon** and

Jill Sherman ing exotic ceremonies. "My

goodness, I have been busy," the Queen remarked as she speech to the Commonwealth. Laughter and loud applause greeted the royal joke.

Paying effusive tribute to the Commonwealth's purpose and value, the Queen said that

its real soul was provided by its people. It was they who ran non-governmental organisations and gave a helping hand to the sick or unemployed. The more the activities of the Commonwealth bring direct benefits to its peoples, the stronger the organisation will be." She firmly believed in its purpose: the promotion of democracy, the pursuit of prosperity through trade and development and the building of consensus.

All three will be the main points of the weekend agenda. and some tough talk began last night on human rights,



Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka at the talks yesterday

globalisation. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary- General, appeared to warn this globalised new Commonwealth that all this could marginalise small developing members. In his open-ing speech, he told Mr Blair and others that an international underclass had emerged, and it had been created by

As the leaders met. Ken Wiwa, the son of the hanged Nigerian Ogoni activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa, joined other demonstrators in denouncing as a self-out the Commonwealth's compromise to delay sanctions on Nigeria for another

Mr Wiwa, a freelance jour nalist in London, said that he felt betrayed by the Commonwealth and knew that he could not rely on it.

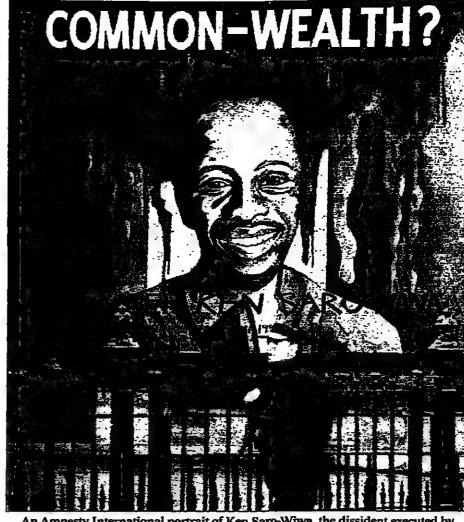
African leaders at the summit defended the package proposed by a ministerial action group, insisting that tough new sanctions or the immediate expulsion of Nigeria could provoke a new coup by junior officers, destabilising the country and provoking civil war.

A senior African politician from the group said: "This would make the Sierra Leone coup look like a picnic."

Nigeria scored a point with the announcement of a peace plan for Sierra Leone that it has brokered in neighbouring Guinea. This proposes an immediate ceasefire, the demobilisation of armed groups, control of the country by a Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force and the return in six months of Ahmad Kabbah, the ousted President. Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth were seeking more details of the

☐ Guyana aid: Britain last night announced a £3 million grant to help to manage a rainforest in Guyans. It will pay for the policing and con-servation of more than 890,000 acres of jungle.

Leading article, page 23



An Amnesty International portrait of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the dissident executed by Nigeria in 1995, dominates an Edinburgh street as Commonwealth leaders meet

Mandela sidesteps Libya row

By Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT MANDELA of South Africa said yesterday that he would not use his visit to the Commonwealth summit to mediate in the four-year dispute between Libya and the governments of Britain and America.

He did say he would meet relations of those Britons killed in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, an attack that is blamed on two Libyan

agents.
The President arrived in Edinburgh for the meeting after talks with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, on the protracted dispute with the West, which is demanding the extradition of the two suspects.

The South African leader was late for the summit opening, arriving after the Queen. "Hello, Tony, how are you?" he boomed at the approaching Prime Minis-ter. Together, he and Mr Blair moved inside and, as they neared the Queen, Mr Mandela called out: "I'm terribly sorry, Your Majesty, that I'm late," He was rewarded with a wide smile and





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night that I realised that even some New Yorkers talk about

Martin Amis all the time. I was dining at Theodore, a natty new restaurant on the fringes of the Chelsea district. and, hard as I tried. I could not get Mr Amis off the conversational menu.

Do not misunderstand. Nobody at the table actually liked his oeuvre, with one lady - a stylish teacher of English at the Brearley School, New York's equivalent of Roedean — even using the word "rubbish" to describe the last Amis book she had read.

"Do you teach him to your girls?" I asked, mischievous-"Certainly not," she replied, stiffening momentarily.
"I teach literature, Mr Amis may have The Information but he does not have the knowledge."

All present, however, were intrigued by one thing. Mr Amis had declared recently that he might soon abandon London and come to live in New York. All at the table

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

wondered why. Was their city Ackroyd, Amis Himself and a better place for a novelist Salman Rushdie (who, althan London? After all, as the though now of no fixed ad-English teacher pointed out, dress, was deemed to be a history shows that London is "London writer"). Who is the more fecund by far when it comes to producing literature. New York novelist today? Only Norman Mailer, and he

> "But New York has much better dentists than London."

Liz Taylor to rescue

FRANK PERINO, a blind man from Long Island, is making substantial progress in his crusade to get Britain to change its rules about putting visting guide-dogs in quarantine. He rang me last month, saying that he had had to cancel a holiday of a

We talked about this. To-

day's I ondon, it was agreed,

had Julian Barnes. Peter

he would not be able to enter the country with Timber, his "eyes". I wrote about his plight in this column, and now Elizabeth Taylor, no less, has given him her support, writing that the rules are an

said my friend, Ellen Wag-ner, who works with the Muppet Show. Clearly, the Great Teeth Debate is not now confined to "skanky" London — as Mr Amis recently described it - but has

reached the Big Apple too.

The dinner-table jury was, in the end, split on "New York versus London". One person said: "Listen, Amis's 'thing' is the triumph of style over content, so this city would be perfect for him. Look around you. New York is like Amis self-referential, overblown, aggravating, clever."

You mean, of course, that Amis is like New York," I pointed out gently, trying to put matters in the right perspective, "True, true," she ed, somewhat chastened. But thankfully, she carried on: "Whatever one thinks of his work, and it is uneven, Amis is a writer of great energy. It's a very New York kind of energy."

Who knows, he may even write a New York Fields here one day. Personally, I hope he

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Martin Amis and partner Isabel Fonseca are considering a move from London to New York

Checking up on Chekhov

New Yorkers have had occasion for a philosophical meditation on the meaning of the word "lost". Harper's magazine features on its cover the claim that it is publishing "Nine Lost Stories" by Anton Chekhov, the Russian writer. Being some thing of a Chekhevista. I grabbed the magazine and

read the superb stories.
But were they "lost"? The translator, Peter Constantine. had encountered them in the New York Public Library, tucked away in obscure Rus-sian journals from the last century. He promptly trans-lated them, thereby "discovering" them. Am I the only one to detect a touch of "Christopher Columbus and America" in this story?

s a rule, one does not A entertain at home in New York. This is because dining rooms are small, kitchens smaller and good restaurants abundant. But there is another reason: one can never be sure about just who is coming to dinner,

Last week I arranged a supper, and invited Barday



Chekhov: masterpieces in obscure journals

Palmer, who runs CNN's New York burean. He brought his fiancee Dana Cowin, the elegant editor-inchief of Food & Wine magazine, the foodies' bible. If only I'd known, dinner might have been more edible.

A good name for dropping

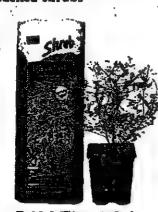
JUST as John Ruskin avoided walking past Keble College at Oxford, regarding it as too ugly. I try not to stroll past the UN headquarters here. The other day, I had no choice. But my gloom was lifted when I saw a street-sign there, now out-of-date. It said: "Nelson and Winnie Mandela Corner". Has anyone told Graça Machel?

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Hopes soar for first supersonic pumpkin flight

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

NOW that Britain's Thrust SSC supersonic car has entered the record books as the fastest vehicle on land, there appears to be open season on breaking the sound barrier: a-group of Americans is trying to send a pumpkin spinning through the air at Mach 1.

For more than a decade, the arcane art of pumpkin throwing — or punkin' chunkin' has attracted an eclectic and eccentric group to the World Championships in Lewes, Delaware. This year, however, a group of five self-styled high-tech rednecks" from ed world champions is trying to punch the vegetable faster

than the speed of sound. For weeks, they have been practising for the Hallowe'en event in the rolling cornlields around Morton, a town which supplies 80 per cent of America's canned pumpkin and calls. itself the pumpkin capital of

the world. At the heart of the recordbreaking attempt is an 18-ton. 100ft cannon made of ten-inchdiameter plastic pipe. The machine, powered by compressed air and mounted onan old cement mixer, will be tethered to a school bus for the trip to Delaware in a fortnight. The \$3,000 (£1,860) Aludium

Q36 Pumpkin Modulator. named after a cartoon gun that was used to destroy Earth, has set a world record for distance, flinging a pumpkin 2,710ft at more than 600mph.

The only question is whether the gourd can survive its supersonic trip or will merely disintegrate in flight, Matt Parker, 28. a Morton businessman who is leading the team. is certain their efforts will be successful. "I know we can do it and I cannot wait to hear the crack when the pumpkin reaches the speed of sound," because of its mass, but it is noise for all of us."

For the past il years, a varied assortment of contraptions has been dragged to Lewes to vie for bragging rights in a collection of pump kin-tossing categories, including human-powered, centrifugal, catapult and air

THE PROPERTY. Derived from an anvilthrowing game once played on the Delaware coast, the rules of the modern contest are clear. Pumpkins must weigh between eight and ten pounds, should leave the machine intact and may not be propelled by explosives.





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Monday Entries must be received

Yeltsin tipped for Riviera's Russian jet set

A HUNDRED and forty years after Empress Alexandra turned Côte d'Azur into the holiday destination of choice for Russia's ruling class, a fresh Russian colonisation of the Riviera is under way by tourists, newly wealthy busi-nessmen from the former Soviet Union, mafia barons and even, if local rumour is to be believed. President Yeltsin.

Last August the sale of the Château de la Garoupe at Cap d'Antibes unleashed a flood of speculation that the Russian leader had followed in Tsarist footsteps by purchasing one of most beautiful properties on the French Mediterranean.

Officially, the château was bought for Fr55 million (£5.7 million) by an international property consortium, but both the local newspaper, Nice-Matin, and Le Point, the French financial weekly, re-



ported that Mr Yeltsin, his daughter Tatyana, Dyachen-, ko, or "Russian businessmen close to the President were behind the purchase.

The rumour gained further weight last week when a member of the aristocratic English family that had owned the chateau since 1906 wrote, in the magazine Country Life, of her fears that the Russian President might neThe Kremlin may now be plotting a

new invasion of France, reports

Ben Macintyre

ancient olive trees unpruned Russian officials have denied the reports and, indeed, if it could be proved that Mr Yeltsin had bought himself such an expensive French processive the religious french the reports the religion of the reports of the religion property the political fallout in Russia would be disastrous. Yet the story persists, and

the estate agents and residents of Cap d'Antibes firmly believe that the magnificent château and its 25-acre garden, once rented by the likes of Aristotle Onassis and Cole Porter, has been bought by someone inside the The belief that Mr Yeltsin

has become a property owner on the Côte d'Azur may be based more on supposition than fact, but it reflects the massive recent inigration to the area of former Soviet politicians and nouveau riche Russian tycoons - some entirely legitimate, and others whose wealth is more dubious.

The first influx of Russians to the French Riviera in the 1850s was followed by a second wave of White Russians at the start of this century. Since the collapse of communism, a home, or at least a holiday, on the Côte d'Azur has again become a supreme mark of status in Russia.

A former official in the Soviet Foreign Ministry is said to have bought two villas



Empress Alexandra, an early visitor to the Riviera, built a church in Nice for the benefit of her courtiers



Duchesne, an estate agent at Cap d'Antibes who is, by coincidence, handling the sale weeks, according to the manager. The wealth of the so-called of a large property that once belonged to the Romanovs.

"Nouveaux Emirs" of the Côte d'Azur is legendary. A Rus-sian businessman called last summer to book a room in one of the region's most expensive hotels, but insisted he did not want any other Russians in the place. He was politely told that this would not be possible

hotel. So he did. It was precisely such extravagance that made the first Russian visitors to the Côte d'Azur so

Empress Alexandra, widow of Nicholas I, found that there was nowhere in Nice large enough for her Russian Orthodox courtiers to worship and so built, at her expense, the vast St Nicholas Cathedral, the largest church of that faith

city's finest landmarks. But while the estate agents and waiters of Nice may be only too delighted by the generous new arrivals, French police are increasingly concerned that the Russian malia is organised crime.

tendrils through the region. Gangsters from the former Soviet Union are well established across the border in Italy and the combination of

lation, casinos and widespread corruption along the southern coast of France have made it an obvious target for

In addition to real estate, wealthy Russians have also begun to buy up other businesses in southern France such as restaurants, importexport operations and distilleries. Police suspect that such investments are often simply a





At the Négresco, the most

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Promenade des Anglais in Nice, menus are printed in Cyrillic and staff have been

trained to speak Russian.

While the most lavish million-

aire usually stays only a few days in the Négresco, Russian







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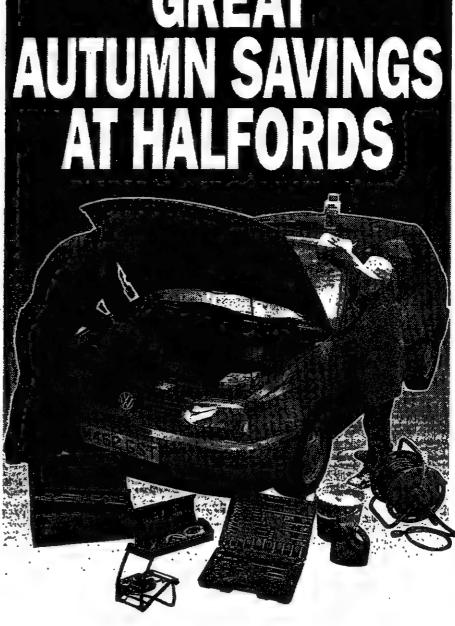
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olic order founded in Algiers

Tizi Ouzou, east of Algiers.

local university, were killed, contributing to the total of 19

priests and nuns to have been

killed since the war began.

About 200 clerics remain, in

Father Macwilliam travels

without any escort and app-

ears resigned to the threat.

the Christian community who

need us here and the majority

of Algerians are OK with our

As part of his training he studied Arabic and Islam and

has built up a network of local friends that has ensured his

survival: "The reason he has

survived is because of this

network," a diplomat said.

"Local people advise him

where to go and not to go,

where to stay and when to

President's victory: The National Democratic Rally,

Zeroual's supporters, topped

the poll yesterday in the first

Algerian local elections in

seven years, winning 5.4 mil-

lion votes, according to the

Interior Ministry. (Reuters)

party of President

being here."

There are still members of

Where being foreign means death

Anthony Loyd in Algiers reports

how Islamic militants target

the bearers of an alien culture

wearing

THE children's choral greeting to foreign journalists at the edge of the Algerian capital's Casbah loses much of its initial suggestion of joyful exuberance when translated from Arabic. "You're going to die, you're going to die," they repeat as a smiling mantra. The winter haunt of Eu-

young things during the 1920s and 1930s until Cairo fashionable. Algeria has become a virtual no-go zone for foreigners. Targeted by fundamentalist ter-

than 200 have been killed in five years, and Foreign Office advice to those who must travel there is gloomy: "British nationals who cannot avoid travel to Algiers should have substantial armed protection at all times; however, this is no guarantee of their safety."

it has become a land where even locals have been murdered for as little as wearing glasses, a prop deemed to be a sign of Western corruption by the Armed Islamic Group, the GIA, and its supporters.

The British Embassy, which despite its garden is a minilicatraz of razor-wired walls

.

in the centre of the capital, has four heavily armed members of the special forces for each of the three resident diplomats. Working in offices sealed by vault-like doors in a compound within a compound, the three are protected by a concentration of more security resources, including electronic

surveillance, bullet and blast proofing, than any other British 6 Local people embassy. "Our glasses, which basic advice to foreigners is to are deemed leave," Savs Gor-François Western, have been killed ? preferably businot come at all." A year into

his posting, the ambassador is the latest guardian of the British diplomatic representation in Algeria, a tradition that stretches back to the 16th century, when the first consul was established to buy the freedom of Christian slaves seized by Islamic pirates. One enterprising Barbary corsair had conducted his trade as far away as the west coast of Ireland, burning villages and seizing their inhabitants for the North African markets. Most European slaves were captured sailing on the Medi-



A security police officer patrols the Algiers Casbah during voting in the country's first local elections in seven years

Security for the loreign journalists arriving in the capital is so heavy as to make the threat almost abstract. Armed plainclothes police grab you at the airport before you have even walked the distance from the aircraft to the terminal building, escorting you to a

mains with you whatever your destination. Even a journey out of the building to buy some cigarentes involves a three-

man guard riding shotgun.
The police and their pistols are replaced by a posse of soldiers with assault rifles for a trip to the entrance of the Casbah, a hothed of GIA lost even to the army. The chance for spontaneous interviews is diluted to say the

The ambassador does not believe the level of the security for the media is unrealistic. "If ten of you went out in different all returning safely at the end of the day." he says.

Despite the risk, more than 400 Britsh citizens remain in Algeria, most of them working for the hydro-carbon industry and living in protected bases in the Sahara to the south: Others have work that puts

The was the case

Tehran welcomes **UK** 'olive has probably the most difficult branch' job for a foreigner. He is the only British priest in the country. A member of the White Fathers, a Roman Cath-

FROM MICHAEL THEODOGLOU IN MICOSIA

in 1868, he has lived among the A DECISION by Britain to Muslim population for the issue an exclusion order past two years. He is trying to against the leader of Iran's reopen a house for the order in main opposition group has been seen in Tehran as a It was closed at the end of welcome olive branch to the 1994 when the four priests living there, who were trying relatively moderate new regime. "It marks a significant shift to build up a library for the

in Britain's policy to Iran and we find it very interesting," an Iranian Foreign Ministry official said yesterday. Europe always expects us to take a strong stand against terrorism, so it is good to see a European country understanding our concerns about

terrorist groups."

The ban against Mariam
Rajavi, leader of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, who flits between bases in Paris and Baghdad, was issued on Wednesday. A spokesman for the Foreign Office, which has declined to describe the move as an overture, said: "The Home Secretary is determined that her presence in the UK would not be conducive to the public good. It's also for reasons of foreign policy and because of the need to take a firm stance

against terrorism." Earlier this mouth Washington declared the group's largest faction, the Mujahidin al Khalq, a terrorist organisation and barred its officials from the US.

Persecution of Christians 'rife under Arafat'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE few remaining Christians in West Bank areas of the Holy Land under the control of Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority are being persecuted according to a report by the of preventing the return of office of Binyamin Netan many Christians to their the Israeli Prime

a furious response from Pales - "tinian control is the Church of tinian leaders in Bethlehem. details allegations that Christian cometeries are being vandalised, churches burgled and Christian youngsters increasingly harassed by gangs

of Islamic militants. The damning report has exposed a division in Palestinian society where Christians. are: increasingly marginalised. In Bethlehem, which was 80 per cent Christian in 1948, Christians now form only 20 per cent of the population and their representation is decreasing still further through

The Prime Minister's office outlines how the Palestinian Authority has taken control of churches in the areas granted self-rule under the 1993 treaty and is pressuring their leaders. to serve as mouthpieces for Mr Arafat, a Muslim.

An emergency meeting of Palestinian officials and some local Christian leaders in Bethlehem issued a statement condemning the report, as "Israeli propaganda which

Palestinian national unity". It added that Christian emigration from the West Bank was caused by "oppressive Israeli measures" and accused Israel

Among the Christian sites The report, which provoked which have passed into Palesthe Nativity in Bethlehem, thefocal point for Christmas celebrations around the world on Christmas Eve.

Hamas warning: Khaled Maashal, the Hamas leader who escaped a bungled Mossad assassination attempt in Jordan, issued a warning last night that more suicide terror attacks would be launched against Israel in "the



Arafat: accused by

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Cash lament orchestrated by maestros







Sppett, Menuhin and Kennedy: harmony over subsidies

LEADING musicians including the composer Sir Michael Tropett and the violinists Lord Menuhin and Nigel Kennedy have called for lottery money to be spent on performers and their instruments, rather than on more buildings.

Sir Michael said yesterday: "It's badly needed for performers. There's not much point in having more money for concert halls if there is no money. for the performers. One of the big problems in Britain is that so many orchestras have been on the verge of bankruptcy. Compare us with Spain or Germany, where practically all the orchestras are salaried and maintained by substantial public subsidy. In Britain, most are made up of freelance musicians who lead such a precarious living.

A similar tune was sounded by Lord Menuhin, who la-

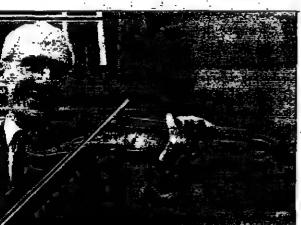
mented that musicians are so badly paid: a rank-and-file performer in Britain averages

under Irala

£20,000, against £60,000 in America. I want people to earn enough to live a good life," he said. "Society has to provide that, whether in money or in violins. People should be able to lead life with

dignity."
The two men were speaking after The Times reported earlier this month that musicians cannot afford to buy instru-ments. Anthony Woodcock, managing director of the Bournemouth Orchestras, said that performers who earn £18,000 a year cannot pay £50,000 for the tools of their trade; without better instruments, performances are

Nigel Kennedy suggested that lottery money could estab-lish a central bank of instruments. The danger of buying instruments for individual orchestras, he said, was that if a player wanted to leave, he or she would have to go back to



Nigel Brown: fears British players are suffering .

Tippett, Menuhin and Kennedy say

lottery could fund instrument

'bank', reports

Dalya Alberge

trust could enable players eventually to boy the instru-ments and play with the orchestra of their choice, assurning they were accepted. He spoke of being struck by

the quality of sound produced by overseas orchestras, which had strings to match their playing in Britain, he said, talented players were constantly hattling against their instruments when conductors asked for more. Possibly the Arts Council could give orchestras better salaries, String players should be allowed a family. After a car, two kids and a normal house, on an orchestral salary there is nothing left apart from a bigger

debt. They deserve more."
Nigel Brown, a Cambridge investment manager and amateur violinist, is among a handful of individuals in Britain who help musicians to acquire instruments. He, too, called for a central fund. without good instruments," he said. "Our most talented musicians have their careers capped by inferior instruments. Having a really good instrument acts like a kicker in

In 1984, after attending a London Symphony Orchestra concert in which Kennedy played Brahms on a Guarneri lent to him by Charles Beare, one of the world's leading dealers, Mr Brown asked the violinist why no one had bought him an instrument. "He said, Because no one's offered. Mr Brown was inspired to set up an instrumentwhich players are able to buy.



the instruments gradually. Nine musicians have so far

been helped by Mr Brown. During the past 17 years, the Loan Fund for Musical Instruments, a charity, has lent some £2 million to young professional musicians, also enabling them to buy instruments. Albert Frost, the treasurer, said that all £2 million had been repaid. "We've not had a bad debt." Musicians have five years in which to pay back the loan. The interest rate is only 2 per cent, compared with banks, perhaps 12 per cent. Most won't lend money." But he added: "We've noticed that there seems to be a falling-off in applications. There is an unease in the profession. Salaries are getting lower. With homes, cars, families, and rail-fares to be paid for, musicians are

GYORGY PAUK

THE solo violinist, born in Hungary, plays a 1714 Stradi-varius. "It is very beautiful." he said, recalling his disbelief some 26 years ago at being offered such an instrument.

"I was playing with the Chicago Symphony Orches-tra, for the second time. A violin collector who came to the concert came to see me in the artists' room and asked me to see his instruments. 1 did. I played about five of his instruments. He asked me, Which one do you like?' and then said, 'You can have it'. He lent it to me. After five years, I felt uncomfortable. I thought he or his children might want it back. I asked him, 'Would you consider selling it to me? He did, for a ridiculous price." The musiamateur musician, remain great friends.

Commenting on the difference between playing a Strad and a modern instrument Pauk said: "The quality of Italian instruments is unsurpassed at the moment. I was on the jury last week of an international competition in Hanover. They had a lecture on Strads. They were talking about what makes it. It's the quality, the warmth, the depth of the sound. They've tried everything to analyse it. But up to today, it's been a secret."

DAVID NOLAN

LEADER of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, he plays a 1770 Storioni violin which, he said, "some people consider the equal of Strads". He paid £5,000 for his first

instrument 25 years ago: "That was a lot of money then. Gradually, each time I got a better violin." This one is

valued at £200,000 plus. Its acquisition was made possible by bank loans and "a ot of self-denial", sacrificing luxuries such as holidays and a decent car.

"It's been a real struggle to have it. If I was starting as a player straight out of music conservatoire with lots of talent but no money, it would be impossible. God knows what they do. They don't. They can't afford it. Yet it's crucial for the health of a top symphony orchestra. The gloss and sheen of a string sound needs these Italian instruments. It's a general quality of sound. Orchestras can make a good sound without them, but it's not the same. You need the gloss of that warm string sound."



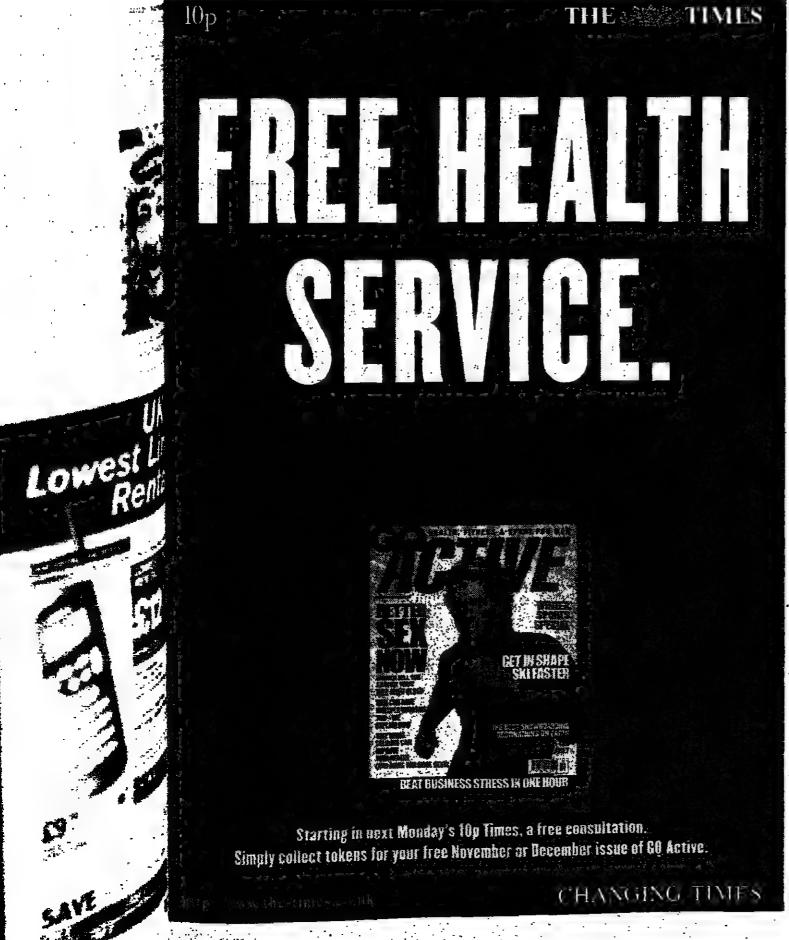


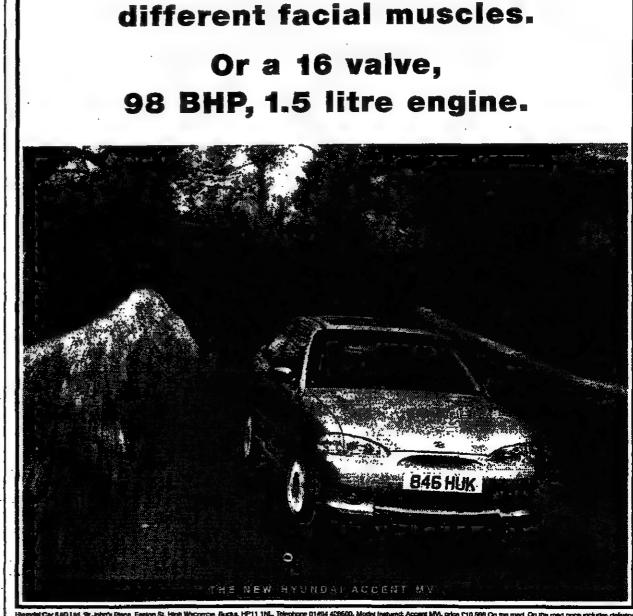
Julian Tear: "There is a difference between old and new

JULIAN TEAR

A VIOLINIST with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Orchestra for ten years, who also freelances with ensembles such as the English Chamber Orchestra, he plays an Italian instrument made two years ago by Alceste Bulfari. Its quality, he said, is superb. "The instrument I've got plays as well as older instruments. No question. But 99 times out of 100 there is a difference between the old and new ones. A lot of modern instruments don't measure up to older ones simply because they have not had the time."

He said that the maker is not well-known and produces only ten instruments a year. When he visited the workshop, there were ten instruments, all spoken for. "I would have bought any one."





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the co-ordinated movement

of fifteen

Blood on the street



Frank Partney, a former trader in the secret world of derivatives, is sending

tremors through international high finance by taking the lid off the billion-dollar scandal of the **Nineties**

Read his exposé in News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Woman wins claim for failed implants

WOMAN who claimed her breasts were left grossly deformed after complications set in following the insertion of silcone implants was awarded £20,636 damages by the High Court yesterday. Christine Williamson, a

fashion designer, won the sum because of the hospital's failure to obtain her consent for surgery to remove her right breast and much of her chest muscle.

The court was told that her left breast was also left unnecessarily scarred by the surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London in April 1994.

Mrs Williamson, 48, of Clapton, East London, was a psychologically vulnerable woman whose breasts were of "paramount" importance to her, Mr Justice Butterfield

Mrs Williamson, a now divorced mother of two, had the implants inserted in 1979. She began to suffer hardening of the breasts in 1982 and had several corrective procedures.

Hospital must pay £20,000 after

carrying out mastectomy without consent when breast implants

began to leak, reports Ian Murray

versions. She did not see, and

was not asked to sign, any

further consent form or an

form. The absence of her

signature pointed strongly to

the form being altered out of

Mrs Williamson's presence and after Mrs Nield had

Mr Justice Butterfield reject-

ed Mrs Nield's claim that Mrs

Williamson understood and

sulted a plastic surgeon at inform Mrs Williamson prop-Bart's, James Harvey-Kemble. erly of her intention to carry complaining she had lost her out surgery in 1994. confidence and her marriage was on the rocks because of ed an operation to replace the

Mrs Williamson said she had told Mr Harvey-Kemble of her fears that the softening operation be performed had ruptured the right implant - a recognised risk of the procedure - but he had refused to treat her. Rejecting her negli-gence claim against the sur-geon, the judge said Mrs Williamson was confused in her recollection. The surgeon had denied telling her that there was nothing he could do.

accepted her explanation that But the judge criticised the failure of another Bart's plas-tic surgeon, Dalia Nield, to her deteriorating condition called for more drastic surthat the operation - a subcumastectomy - was excessive

Mrs Nield said she had never seen a Worse case silicone was everywhere, making the operation the only solution. Her view was backed by two other experienced doctors who attended.

The judge said he viewed the operation as necessary at that point or later because of leakage. The damages were awarded against Bart's, which is part of the Royal London Hospital and the London Chest Hospital NHS Trust, which had denied negligence. Mrs Williamson said last

night that when she had had the implants she had not realised how dangerous they could be. "Women should be warned that implants can rupture, and if that happens it is essential to get treatment immediately

She said she hoped now to have a breast reconstruction.



Christine Williamson, who said the failure of the implants had damaged her confidence

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NatWest More than just a bank

Porch storm blows up into £30,000 bill

A PETTY row between two bours was settled yesterday after five years of legal wrangling at a cost of £30,000.

The dispute arose when Peter and Janet Grove decided to build a tiny porch on to their terraced house to shield. the front door from rain. The meagre construction, built by Mr Grove, a retired builder, protrudes 3ft into a common driveway and has remained unfinished for six years.

Yesterday, after much deliberation, three High Court -Groves to pull it down. But judges overtimoed a county court ruling that had left the Grove family owing £15,000. in costs to their neighbour

Dorck Miner. Mrs Grove said: "We had no idea that the porchway would cause all this trouble until a letter arrived one morning from Mr Minors solicitor just after we started work on it. We stopped building and have been lighting a legal battle ever since.

"We kept trying to negoti-ate a settlement but Mr Minor always refused. Even the day before the case came to London we offered to pull down the porch, pay him

£4.000 towards his costs and give him right of way, but he still refused.

The hearing was told how the Groves, of Allscott, Shropshire, were faced with bitter opposition from Mr Minor, who claimed that the porch would obstruct access for vehicles to his cottage.

In February 1992 Mr Minor won his case at Telford County Court after Judge Desmond Perrett ruled that the porch did obstruct the right of way and ordered the the Groves, who did not have legal aid, decided to appeal.

Anthony Radevsky, for the couple, told appeal judges lords justices Hirst, Swinton-Thomas and Millet: "No vehicle has ever wished to use the access way to reach number II which was obstructed

by.it." After the ruling Mr Minor. who also funded his own case, was ordered to pay all the High Court and county court costs, estimated at £30,000 by the Groves'

Mr Grove said later that he would "quietly get on with building the porch".



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The case of the murderous messenger

Michael Gove sifts through the conflicting clues to find the guilty parties in the strange case of the

massacre in the marketplace

·WHO bludgeoned the Government's credibility? If it were Agatha Christie telling the story, it would be Ten Little Spinners. If it was on film, it would be The Long Black Friday. And if it was Cluedo, it could be Charlie Whelan in the Red Lion with the mobile phone.

The blame for finishing off

the "honeymoon couple", Gor-don and Tony, has been laid firmly at the door of those who brief on their behalf. An attempt to state clearly where Labour stood on the single currency led markets to fall and, with them, the stock of this administration.

The responsibility for sowing confusion where clarity was required has been pinned on the Chancellor's press sec-retary, the voluble Charlie Whelan, Whitehall's Bob Hoskins, who believes it's good to talk but only on a non-

The truth, however, is different. Mr Whelan was faithfully reflecting the leadership line in a manner authorised from the top. He has now been more spinned against than spinning. The problems Labour experienced last week, and conflicting impulses with the Government beween pragmatists and European idealambitions of Peter Mandelson to be both messenger and

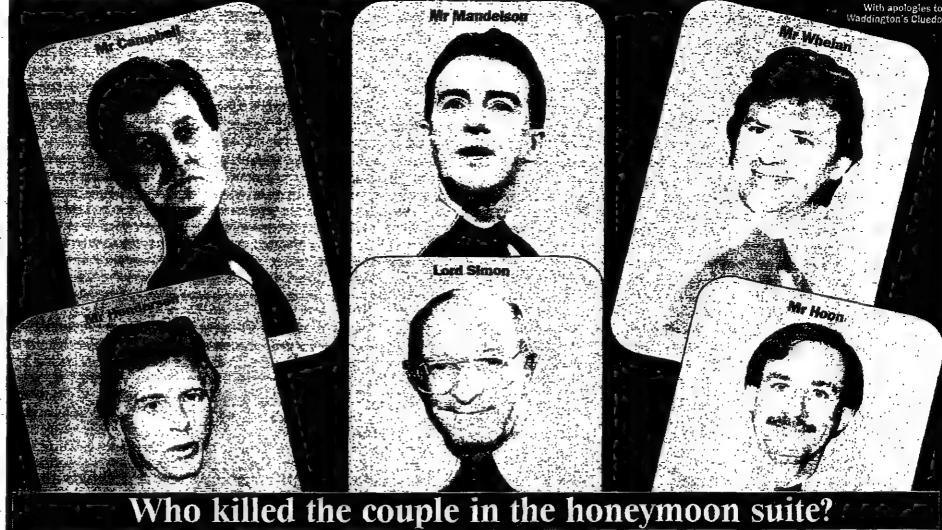
> John Major once, presciently, described Europe as a wolf coming up the path to destroy his Government. This Government first heard the distant how! on Friday, September 26. with a story in the Financial

Times by Robert Peston, its political editor. He quoted "ministerial" sources who argued that the increasing likeli-hood of a successful launch for the European single currency was inclining the Government

in favour of early entry. The effect of the front page of the "city bible" was instant. The pound fell at the prospect of permanent union with the lira and escudo. A cheaper pound helps exports, and so shares shot up. The virtuous combination of cheaper pound and higher share prices was wanted and the Chancellor. Gordon Brown, was known to favour early entry to EMU, so the source of the story seemed

Too clear for the Treasury. The day the story appeared, two of Brown's closest aides were at pains to deny they were flying any kites. They could not deny that there had been a leak from their department until they had talked to all the ministers, but both were adamant that Brown was not behind an article one called a "punt" and the other termed "bollocks".

On the Sunday after the FT story, the airwaves carried the sound of singing from the same hymn sheet as Brown and Robin Cook rubbished the Peston piece. The FT's political editor robustly defended his story on The World this Weekend and insisted that it was the product of several conversations and not a speculative over-interpretation of one briefing. His adamance fired speculation among other journalists to the real sources. The deep throat was believed



to belong to one of several middle-ranking ministers close to Blair or Brown and European stance. Doug Henderson, the normally cautious Europe Minister, and Geoff. Hoon, the former MEP who is now Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, were fingered. But the name most often whispered was that of Lord Simon of Highbury, the former BP

chairman and Trade Minister, whose commitment to the single currency was often advertised before he joined the

The rumours attaching themselves to his name in spired the Shadow Trade Secretary John Redwood to prompt Lord Tebbit to table searching questions in the Upper House last Wednesday. On Friday, Simon deployed a familiar disavowal of ministe rial responsibility and claimed he had been on holiday.

The search for Peston's source, although an entertaining sub-plot, was not, however, the question of first

6 Tensions

between

Brown and

Blair may

owe more to

rivalry among

their courts 9

importance. Whether the original story was faithful to Brown's inclina tion, — and insiders. vehemently

maintain it was not - its appearance created turbeyond the markets. It fed an appetite within

the press and the Labour Party for evidence of tension between a pro-single currency Chancellor and a more cautious Prime Minister. The existence of tensions between Brown and Blair may owe more to rivalry among their courts than dissension between the two men, but there are enough partisuns on either side to lend rumours weight. Several papers had been preparing new pieces on the theme for Sunday October 19. Egos aside, both Brown and Blair realised that continued coverage which placed them at loggerheads on the single currency, with Brown dragging Blair towards Brussels. would distract attention from other matters and risk a rerun

of the debilitating speculation which had preceded Margaret

Thatcher's ill-fated entry to the

ERM. It was decided that Brown would blow the whistle on the press's game by spelling out the genuine scepticism towards early entry which

existed at the highest level. Accounts differ as to who felt a statement was necessary: a Prime Minister determined to rein in his Chancellor, or a Chancellor annoyed at being traduced, but it was agreed that a definitive statement ruling out early entry to EMU should be made by the Chancellor. He had, until then, been disinclined to state authoritatively that the Government was cool on the subject.

> whether to couch standing aloof in chronological, or political terms the lifetime of this Parliament or tintil 2001. An interview Chancellor with The Daily

> > Thursday the

Times's political editor, Phil Webster, aware of the genuine scepticism in Downing Street towards early entry, had been trying for about ten days to persuade Brown to state his feelings on the record. Since Webster had read the trend accurately, it was decided he should be given the necessary confirmation.

On the afternoon of last Friday, the 17th, Webster interviewed Brown by telephone at his Dunfermline base both about the single currency and the wider economy. Webster had been faxed a passage on the single currency, including two crucial paragraphs agreed the night before by Brown and Blair. In them, Brown made clear that declining to enter in 1999 would mean the Government's task was "to deliver a period of

sustainable growth, tackle long-term weaknesses in the economy and continue to press for reform in Europe".

"Sustainable", "long-term", "continue to press". The signals, as Webster noted, were loud and clear. It would take time, a long time, before Britain would enter after 1999. Webster appreciated that these paragraphs made obvious that in effect, no entry was possible in this Parliament, and had his interpretation confirmed by No II.

Charlie Whelan took the precaution of alerting editors on other titles that The Times had a story which was neither a punt nor a profanity. He was not the only spin doctor to attest to the story's importance. Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, briefed a number of iournalists underlining the importance of The Times story. No 10 and No 11 were as

Whelan's briefings were conducted by mobile phone from the pavement outside the Red Lion pub in Whitehall, where he had been drinking with Ed Miliband, another of Brown's advisers. The informal nature of his spinning was used by others to undermine his authority, but although Whelan may not have been by his minister's side he

Editors may have been informed early and in full, but others were left or 'de the

was his master's voice.

adviser at the No 10 Policy Unit, nearly choked on his marmalade at a Foreign Office conference when he read The Times story on Saturday morning. Although some No 10 advisers, notably the economics expert Derek Scott. are gentle sceptics. Liddle is an ardent pro-European. His

loop. Roger Liddle, the Europe

an old friend, Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio and, on this occasion, without the magic circle. Mandelson, cool in his relations with Brown and arctic

consternation was shared by

towards Whelan, was reported to be distressed at the sceptical turn and his exclusion. An alternative spin on the events of the weekend began to emanate. The Mirror on Monday 20th assured

its readers policy had not changed An exposed FT down the significance of the

in City and Westminster. Mandelson's fingerprints were all too

apparent 🤊

Brown interview, earning its Brown's friends their response political editor a dressingdown from Mr Campbell.

The mixed messages emanating from the Government had upset the markets. When Brown visited the City on Monday 20th, banks of red figures on dealers' screens signalled the markets' displea-

sure. The anger of pro-Euro-

peans in the Blair circle, or rather those who were now uncomfortably outside

found another outlet. In the New Statesman on Thursday 23rd, an "inside account" of the week's events fingered Whelan and Campbell. who apparently ignorant about Europe", as well as confident-

ly predicting what Brown would say in a forthcoming statement. He would, the magazine predicted, review Britain's convergence with continental

pects for EMU entry, on an annual basis. For sleuths at Westminster and

the City, the fin-6 For sleuths gerprints of Mandelson were ali too apparent. The "annual review" idea had been floated to City figures from

> bounced off was categoric: such a strategy would fuel uncertainty, not

dowse it. When Brown addresses the House of Commons this Monday, he will need to provide greater clarity than he has done before if the Government's credibility is not to take

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They talk of peace; the deeds are dirty

TALK to Mary Maskey about Northern Ireland's ceasefire and she snorts with derision. That word makes me sick. It's just a joke. It means nothing -

it never has and it never will." Ms Maskey - not her real name — is a young single mother with four small child-ren. She and her family are living in a hostel near London, but she will not say where. Six weeks ago she was beaten senseless. Three weeks ago loyalist paramilitary thugs forced her to flee her native town of Larne in Co Antrim.

Twenty miles south of Larne, the political representa-tives of loyalist and republican paramilitary organisations six at the Stormont peace talks, having solemnly committed Mitchell principles of democ-

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The price of keeping paramilitaries at negotiations is to keep quiet about

their thugs, reports Martin Fletcher racy and non-violence. They can justifiably claim that the

bombings and sectarian warfare have largely ceased. But on the tough, sprawling housing estates of Northern Ireiand, the violence and intimidation continue unabat-

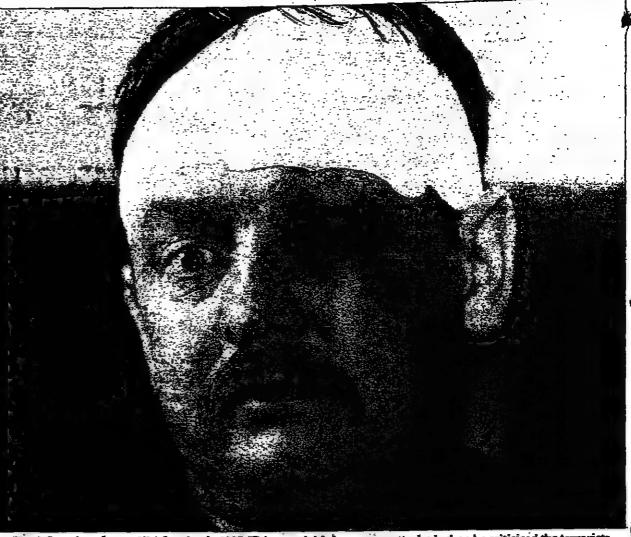
Ms Maskey is a Roman Catholic who lived on a mixed housing estate. As she tells it, two masked men armed with baseball bats broke into her house at 2.45am. They went up to the bedroom where she was

her baby daughter, and beat her unconscious.

Ms Maskey suffered a fractured skull, had to have her right ear sewn back on, and is still partially deaf and partially blind in her right eye. Her baby lost her right index finger. Her sister required stitches to her head. She says the assailants were loyalist paramilitaries hired by a local drug dealer who had argued with a member of her family. After nine days in hospital. Ms Maskey moved into her mother's house. Three weeks

ago a letter arrived. She thought it was a get-well card until she opened it. haside were words to the effect of "Get out of Larne while you can. Giving false accustations to the police doesn't work." Ms Maskey and her children caught the loom ferry to Stranger that night. "I couldn't breathe for fear," she

According to the Royal Ul-ster Constabulary, there have been 17 shootings, assaults. kneecappings and pathisfi-ment beatings carried out by republican paramilitaries since the IRA renewed its ceasefire on July 20, and 25 by their loyalist counterparts The total for the first 65 After a brief luil, the level of



Hugh Lewsley after an IRA beating in 1995. This month his house was attacked when he criticised the terrorists

asefire levels. Trs quite clear that there are incidents; quite serious incidents, involving assaults and the exclusion of people from their communities still going on," an RUC spokesman said. "A number of these certainly fall into the category of paramilitary-style

Last Saturday three masked men with a baseball but dislocated the leg of a 21-

year-old man walking along a road in Lisburn, Co Amrim, just before lam. At midday a gunman walked into a bookmakers just off the Falls Road in West Belfast and shot an 18year-old in both legs. That evening a group of masked thugs entered a house in Lisburn and broke the arms of two 16-year-old boys.

In the first two weeks of this month, Families Against Intishidation and Terror (FAIT), Belfast human rights group. has been contacted by 15 people who have received death threats or been forced from their homes by the selfstyled paramilitary vigilantes who control the estat

FAIT said one comie with four children were ejected from a Protestarit estate because theirs was a "mixed" marriage. The IRA evicted another family from an estate into which they had moved two weeks earlier because the father had once been a joyrides. The IRA ejected another man, recently returned from

has had to rehouse 132 families who have left their homes because of intimidation.

The paramilitaries' goal is "to let people know in areas where they are strong that they are still there and still maintain power and control". Sam Cushnahan, FAIT's director, said. If they stopped their violence "people would begin to speak that against

In signing up to the Mitchell principles, Sina Fein, the

MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS

second telephone call from

IRA's political wing, and the loyalist Uister, Democratic and Progressive Unionist parties representing the Ulster Defence Association and UIster Volunteer Force, promised to take "effective steps" to killings. The violence continues but no one is calling the parties to account.

Both sides are equally culpable. The thugs generally operate on a no claim, no blame" basis and no longer broadcast their affiliations. One authoritative source suggested that the Government and security forces were detiberately playing down the problem because they were "more

Another major reason is that the victims are terrified of speaking out Even Ms Maskey, now hidden in south-

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Hugh Lewsley, an independent councillor from West Beliast's Catholic Twinbrook paramilitaries operate. Last house was attacked. In 1995 he was badly beaten after condemning the IRA for evicting families for being "antisocial".

Another man who has spoken out is Thomas Marley His 21-year-old son Gerard had his legs broken by the IRA for joyriding. A week after the ceasefire. Gerard hanged himself from railings because of the constant taunts of the peramilitaries who crippled they are the ones who are



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CULTURE, tomorrow

All the president's mien

Mary McAleese is campaigning to be Ireland's new Mary Robinson. But there are invisible barriers to overcome

am watching a tall slim woman of 46, dressed in a chic trouser suit (by Deborah Veale, Irish designer), striding down the main street of a small Irish town, her reddish hair wellcoiffed, bestowing smiles and greet-

ings left and right.
I have been here before seven years ago exactly, when the buzz from Dublin was that a woman — a woman - might swing the presidency of Ireland. Mary Robinson changed things for ever. Another Mary is going to take over from her next Thursday when the nation votes. It will be either Mary McAleese or Mary Banotti, and with only three days to go (this weekend is a Bank Holiday in the Republic), it is neck and neck.

McAleese, who doesn't even have a vote in the South, still has much going for her, despite last week's tarrings with the Sinn Fein brush in what Mary Holland has called "a squalid poll that has opened tribal splits we'd hoped were

Robinson was high-profile, ener-getic, marketable. She could wear Irish designer suits with style. She was new. But that was then: this is now. McAleese — equally present-able, just as brainy (she held, like Robinson, a junior professorship in law at Trinity College, Dublin at the age of 24) articulate (she's been a television presenter) and a Roman Catholic, married to a dentist, appears a natural successor to Robinson.

ut she remains a northern nationalist, and preextended the limits and paved the way, the going is tough. I told her how many of her utterances sound identical to the early Robinson, especially when voicing hopes for the future. Has nothing changed or improved in the past

is different. The peace talks are the backdrop, which is what I would like to be able to help and nationalist background: I am a nationalist who hopes for a political: consensus soon in Northern Ireland."

I remark that her speeches do not mention the fact that her family was left homeless after an attack on their Crumlin Road house in 1974, nor that her father's two pubs were burned and bombed. Nor that her profoundly deaf younger brother was beaten up and left for dead by loyalists.

"Everyone knows about that." she said, and there comes a point where people wonder if you're obsessed by it. My commitment to forgiveness and tolerance does not come from my experience as a



victim." There is obviously much of human interest in her story, but she is guarded towards the press, who watch the effusive public performances of an intelligent, confident, and highly presentable woman — "This is the same country," and highly presentante woman McAleese said, "and the same all the ingredients for a good issues are going forward for the president — but judge her patronising evasive and intimidations. No ing to those she might woo. No Wonder she has found the press "not terribly helpful".

> inson used to sit down for 20minute talks with each journalist, which gave us a chance of forming a nersonal view. McAleese allows five hacks a brief cluster just before she gives a speech, a minder standing by with a five-minute stopwatch.

The Speech follows a formula.

Her theme is building bridges, and the first gulf to be bridged is her northern origins. Asturely, Mary finds a link with every place she visits. In Athlone, an aunt and uncle in the audiences in Tuliamore, she "cut her political teeth at the Geoghegans' table"; in Tralee, there is a football connection: in Kerry, she had honeymooned.

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Then there is the barefoot story. When her father was 14 he had to leave his home in the South and go North to find work. In his school photo, none of the children had shoes. Those times have gone. Her own three children (14-year-old daughter and twins of 12) are shod by Nike, Adidas and Reebok.

Next, she tells young audiences how she was the eldest of nine. (She is one of a clan of 60 cousins, her the text about increasing and multiplying). Just when she was taking her A levels, her youngest brother was born, and he cried all night. "I was the one who had to get the other children off to school, and I was looking after the baby at

night as well.
I began to feel it wasn't worth the effort, that university was not for people like me. I wanted to give The word stress didn't exist then. But one elderly teacher named Miss O'Friel noticed intuitively some change in me, and she started to arrive every morning to take me to school in her battered Morris Minor. I have often reflected on her act of kindness. I went to



university, I got a good job. But I came out of the tradition that says you must give something back to **VOUR COUNTRY**

Finally, she extols Ireland's modernity. Two phrases recur: "Ire-

thrown back" and "We are the success story of Western Europe". She has worked in Dublin and in are in our own minds." Belfast, where she is Pro-Vice Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast the first woman and the

first Catholic to hold that job. But of course, a Belfast upbringing has endowed her with an accent. It was a shock to me to hear radio, television and newspaper columnists griping about that "harsh, It is not, in fact. But it certainly grates on the ears in trendy Dublin The flat-capped man in the street

in Mullingar, on the other hand, seizes my sleeve to say that McAlcese is "the only one by a long shot. Carries herself well. Same mannerisms as Mary Robinson, same hand gestures. She'll sail through it."

Not quite, however "apolitical" the presidency is supposed to be. She may be able to strip away her own "baggage" and extend an 'unflinching hand of friendship" to make peace with the Unionists, but Unionists (who ended up loving Mary Robinson) do not yet feel the same way about McAleese. As she said: "The greatest barriers of all Her last speech on Thursday

night was at the opening of the Ideal Home Exhibition in Dublin, a nightmarish display of all the most hideous things you could put inside a house. She made a noble speech, remembering seeing at the first Ideal Home Exhibition, her first fitted kitchen, her first Vene-

he invoked Irish pride in

home ownership but said it was depressing that the downside of wealth creation is that house prices are now beyond the reach of the young. On the BBC's Question Time from Belfast, John Hume is speaking with soft-voiced reason. If Hume had stood, he might have proved more acceptable than any of

the five existing candidates.

As it is, it will not be a shoo-in for either of the Marys, but it is McAleese who people are talking about. Which should work to her advantage in a chattering country

Hard-up widow fails to raise a laugh

ON paper the Royal Opera's new production of Lehar's Merry Widow looked failsafe. There is a Viennese conductor (Dietfried Bernetl, a classy double act in Felicity Lott and Thomas Allen, who sing and speak their lines with innate stylishness, and the tried and trusted production team of Graham Vick (director), Richard Hudson (designer) and Ron How-ell (choreographer). So it is hard to say precisely why the first night fell as flat as last month's sachertorte, though an audience resolutely determined not to enjoy itself had a lot to do with it. Smart line after smart line in Jeremy Sams's new translation went by without so much as a rustle of recognition, let alone a titter.

Perhaps it all boils down to a ruestion of millions - and not the Widow's millions either. The famous £78 million from the Lottery, in which the company is supposed to be wallowing, is of course - as commentators either will not or choose not to recognise - earmarked for the rebuilding of the

OPERA FIRST NIGHT

The Merry Widow Shaftesbury Theatre

Opera House. The company itself is simply poverty stricken and on this showing looks it.

But operetta has got to look expensive, and this doesn't the costume fabrics look cheap, there simply aren't enough people to populate even the Shaftesbury Theatre's small stage, and Jennifer Pipton's flat lighting fails to breathe the slightest whiff of romance into the plain box set.

There are nice moments in Vick's direction — raucous showgirls as the Grisettes, and Hanna paying Danilo for his waitz at the Act I curtain - and some curious miscalculations: the climax of Act 11 is killed stone dead by the whole company suddenly sitting down. It's all a bit too tasteful, and one longs for a sharp injection of good old-fashioned showbiz vulgarity. That goes for bit more schmaltz without sending everyone's sugar-level scaring to health-threatening heights.

There is an excellent Valencienne in the young Armenian soprano Juliette Gaistian. who can dance as well as she sings, and Claudio Desderi battles heroically with a speaking role in a language not his own. But the romantic tenor role is disastrously miscast and the comic, David Ross, works too hard and in the wrong idiom — all those Benny Hill-style jokes must go. Or is the Royal Opera serious about attract-ing a tabloid audience?

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childcare and anti-British bias

is a misfortune to be British in a Boston court-A room. That was my first thought, watching the careful, anxious, utterly compelling testimony of Louise Woodward, the British au pair accused of shaking one-yearold Matthew Eappen to death. My second reaction is that America is in a mess on the whole question of childcare. The seminar which Hillary Clinton hosted in the White House on Thursday conspired in the delusion that childcare is cheap - one the country must soon regret.

Whichever way one's sym-pathies lie, the Louise Woodward trial, which resumes on Monday, is a nightmarish case. At its heart, as the packed courtroom heard on Thursday, is conflicting, complicated medical evidence about the cause of the baby's death. The prosecution says he had injuries caused by shaking, the defence that he died from undetected internal

bleeding which was weeks old. That medical uncertainty plays on every working parent's fear about what exactly happens at home during the day. It also opens the door to all the nationalistic prejudices which can be projected on to Louise Woodward's blank, round face.

Those prejudices exist. Many people in Boston are outraged at suggestions that a young woman might not get a fair trial in their town just because she is British. But the depth of anti-British feeling in Boston can run deeper than innocent visitors might suspect. The British see Boston as the American city which, with its gaslights and brick town-

houses, most resembles home. I write as someone with a large web of Boston Irish and Italian relatives on one side of the family. For a start, there is the still-powerful Irish element in the city's politics. No politician seeking higher office, such as Tom Reilly, the district attorney in charge of the case, will gain many votes by being seen to go soft on the

Farther back, there is Boston's role as the crucible of the American Revolution, most lamously in the 1773 Boston Tea Party, when merchants tipped the tea of the East India Company into Boston Harbour in protest against the company's monopoly, imposed by Westminster. Boston schoolchildren still recite the tale of "the midnight ride of Paul Revere" to warn the town

that "the British are coming". In some quarters, the British are still the enemy, even if they come in the guise of young schoolgirls. It is hard not to think that these factors have played a part in decisions such as making the charge against Louise Woodward one of first-degree murder, and refusing to grant her bail. Her bail application was denied even though she offered to wear an electronic tag and to stay with a prominent member of the local church, and even though her parents had offered to pledge their home as

security. The influential Bos-

ton Globe attacked the court for the decision, accusing Mr Reilly of playing to anti-British

Nor are British reserve and a British accent helpful to Louise Woodward. As she took the stand on Thursday, she displayed exactly the qualities you might want in an au pair: she was careful, ordered, me-thodical. But amid the drama of an American court, a British accent sounds clipped and flat. Her plump, impassive face helps her in that it gives the lie to the prosecution's case that she was a giddy teenager, but it damns her in the eyes of many who find her altogether "too calm". Diana, Princess of Wales's Panorama eyes and tear-swallowing voice would have helped her more, one

The real lesson from the case, however, is that America is indulging itself in the belief that childcare can be cheap. When you look at Louise Woodward, the folly is obvious. You cannot hire an 18-year-old, pay her far less than a trained adult on the ground that you are giving her foreign experience, deny her a grownup social life and still expect her to assume the responsibilities of an adult.

That is a lesson the Clintons should already know. In 1993, President Clinton lost Zoe Baird, a nominee for Attorney-General, to the "Nannygate" scandal, when it was revealed that she employed two illegal immigrants to look after her children, and also failed to pay their social security. Her explanation was that she was simply doing as thousands of professional women had done.

t the other end of the social scale, America's ambitious welfare reform experiment assumes a huge expansion of government-provided childcare. State governments plan to cut off benefits entirely to force people to find work. Insisting that the rules apply to single mothers, even those with babies just months old, many state governments are supplying childcare free of charge.

But this is costing a fortune, which may not be sustainable. Nor is there any reassurance that this "care" is good for these infants. Think-tanks are already worrying about the

long-term effects.
That is why Hillary Clinton's initiatives, announced on Thursday, sound so bollow. Federal spending on the grand scale was not on offer, she made clear. She fell back hopefully instead on that old favourite of politicians with no money, "public-private partnerships".

Ten years from now, it will be harder to keep up that pretence. Childcare may well be the factor that causes the welfare experiment to unravel. and which forces working parents -- even if not always mothers - to spend more time at home. Whether or not Louise Woodward did the things of which she stands accused, she is the victim of America's wishful thinking that childcare comes cheap.



Sycamore spinners (Muddleris singlecurrencis)

The genus propagates by dissemination with a heavy spin (see lig 1a). Not always successful (see Fig 1b), the effect is to sow seeds of confusion.

A collection of Nature Notes is now available in book form. To order a signed copy, see Weekend Page 13

The sceptical temptation

f EMU is successfully launched. Britain will be a part of it. This is as near to a fact - not a Labour or a Conservative fact, but a British Government fact - as it is possible to come about a political decision still to be made.

This fact underpins the tortured manoeuvrings over this past week, which are set to culminate in a statement to be given to the reassembled House of Commons on Monday by the Chancellor. These manoeuvrings point to two worrying states of affairs: first, that there is a potential breach between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, although not the one previously advertised; and secondly, that we may be about to have a decision taken to rule out entry to the European single currency for this Parliament, a decision which runs

counter to prudent governance. The breach between the two most powerful politicians in the country was advertised as being over Europe, with Tony Blair said to be sceptical and Gordon Brown an enthusiast. For all the nuances which exist in

a quarrel. Both men believe that Britain should be part of a European currency that works and that to stay out would be damaging. But both also believe that economic and political reasons speak against early entry. The tension between

them is not over Europe, but is a matter of power. It has been dramatised in the past week by the issue of spin-doctoring, although the essence of the problem is not what the doctors did or did not

spin, but what they represent. Alastair Campbell is the Prime Minister's press secretary, and effective head of the Government Information Service. Charlie Whelan is Gordon Brown's private and political press secretary, who has no formal status in Government at all. He is part of the close and talented group of aides with whom Mr Brown has surrounded himself. He is not there. as other special advisers are, to assist on policy. He is explicitly there to promote the profile of the Chancellor.

This is a uniquely powerful Chart-cellor. Well before Labour came to Government, he envisaged Treasury control over much of the government machine - especially over the main spending departments such as Health, Social Security and EducaBrown should not rule out EMU, but wait and spin, says **John Lloyd**

tion - in part because they spend so much money but in greater part because they required restructuring and he wished to decide on, and insome measure even actually to do. that vast work. He has appointed a number of business people to think through this restructuring, all working parallel with, and no doubt in contradiction to, departmental minis-ters and their advisers. Mr Brown's Weifare to Work scheme invoives a recasting of the delivery of services and benefits, of the shape of education and of assumptions about work.

He is a very mighty baron. The scope of his power encompasses not just a Treasury of unusual ambition, but a patronage which can extend protection to ministers such as Harri-Harman, the Social Security Secretary. She has trusty relations with Frank Field, her deputy, who their positions, they do not amount to has been entrusted by the Prime a quarrel. Both men Minister with the task of

rethinking the welfare Keeping the In a speech last month to door open a conference on "Modern-ising the Policy Process", to entry is Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio and still just prudent the closest of aides to the Prime Minister, endorsed governance Ferdinand Mount's de-

scription of the existing governmental system as "a loose baronial monarchy". The large tasks new Labour had set itself, he said. "demand a different, more effective system of government", with a

strong centre at its hub". Before it has strengthened itself, the centre is challenged by the vast barony of the Treasury, its influence and patronage spreading throughout Government. Mr Whelan's crime is not his spin-doctoring, nor even that he departed from his master's text in spinning: but that he exists in his present form. For he is a standing reminder that the Chancellor is not just the most powerful minister, but that he has constituted a separate power centre, one with advisers who will not -- as do civil servants -- seek to ensure that Treasury concerns ultimately mesh with Prime Ministerial ones, but who are single-minded

in the pursuit of his agenda.

The Prime Minister and the Chan-

cellor remain close. As in Opposition. so in Government, they tend to meet without others present and to settle matters - to the fury of civil servants. But outside, their entourages and supporters fight a subterranean warof advantage — as if the heads of the Montagu and Capulet clans had agreed amicably to run Verona, while allowing their henchmen to lay

ambushes for each other in the alleys.

Mr Mandelson believes that the wound Mr Brown inflicted on himself when he gave Mr Blair a clear run for the party leadership after the death of John Smith still bleeds. If so, the Chancellor stanches it by activity and the exercise of power. This past week, when his camp was seen to. have mishandled an attempt to make clear that Prime Minister and Chan-

with the guilt of having surpassed one to whose leadership qualities even he had once deferred. not rule out What will be the outa pro-EMU

Delay did

come for policy? Mr Brown, it is now being said rhetorical - or spun - will put an end to all speculation next offensive · week and rule out, finally, entry into EMU in this Parliament. Both Mr Campbell and Mr Whelan briefed after the Chancel-

lor's interview with this newspaper a week ago that his cloudy comments meant no entry this side of an election. It is hard to believe that both could have so mistaken the messages they were given as to distort utterly the messages they passed on.

But I hope they did. For the
Government's position before it hard-

ened over this past week did make economic sense. It did not make short-term political sense, and if that consideration wins, it means that the worst side of new Labour triumphs

In discussions on EMU over the summer, it was recognised that economics and politics told against first-wave entry. The business cycle was out of kilter with the Continent. and sterling was overvalued; at the same time, a steady majority of the British refused to be attracted to the

loss of sterling as their currency. The antidote was education, education, education — to win the people over to a view of the European Union more positive than that dinned in by years of near-chauvinism dressed up as statesmanship. Paddy Ashdown and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead were enthusiastic about an early referendum on entry while Labour was popular and the Opposition incoherent. This was considered, and rejected.

The posture decided upon was thus for delay — but delay interleaved with enthusiasm, and a gradually intensifying rhetorical offensive in favour of the European cause. And not just rhetoric: the Government has broken through the taboo which the Tories sought to erect about the social chapter, and published a White Paper allowing the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

Here was a reasonable if undramatic, position. It was uncertain, but could not be otherwise. For the

try if it does not succeed, nor how much pressure business — and organised labour - will put on the Government to get in quickly. And since it does not know, it should leave open the door of possibility of entry in this Parliament. It may not be likely, but it is possible. It is prudent

guardianship of the nation's interests to say so, and to act upon it.
We should hope that Mr Brown reflects on this before he rises next week. Uncertainty, to be sure, is unwelcome to the City, but until last week, the City lived happily and profitably with it. Ruling out entry eems driven more by political than

by economic considerations. The Conservatives have responded in kind: their decision this week to rule out entry for two Parliaments, not one, is an apeing of the worst of new Labour. William Hague's disturbing propensity to steal his opponents' populism merely confirms the Tories marginality. Labour should have the courage of its necessary uncertainty, and boldly speak out for continued sitting on the fence.

The author is associate editor of the Simon Jenkins will return next week.

Are you a twitcher or a dude?

Simon Barnes on

birdwatching and its pecking order

dipped out on the Siberian rubythroat. Didn't even try for it. I left it to the several hundred twitchers who surrounded the poor windblown little scrap of feathers that fetched up in Dorset this week. So I was well and truly gripped off,

I don't twitch. That is to say, I don't chase tare birds. I don't even keep a list, despite the Bill Oddie Rule which states that all birders keep a list, even if it's only a list of the number of times

they tell people they don't keep a list.

And besides, I have left it a bit late to join the elite of twitcher society. About ten years ago, a life list of 300 - that is to say, 300 species of bird that you have seen in Britain - was considered pretty good going. But soon, it was not until you reached 400 that you had broken the sound barrier and were cruising towards

the upper levels of twitching: Now, if you want to sup at the high table, then breaking 400 still leaves you with a marathon to travel. The top man in twitching is Ron Johns, who is now on 513. Among those close behind is Richard Millington, on 500. who runs Birdline, the twitchers' nationwide telephone information

I obtained these figures from Lee Evans, not so much the heir apparent to Ron Johns as the Bolingbroke. He is on 498. I reached him on his mobile in the Isles of Scilly, where he was chasing autumn migrants. "Much about?" I asked, the classic, indeed, the only meaningful birder's ques-tion. "Nah. Only common yellowthroat and blackpoli."

am not at the high table, nor near enough to scrabble for the crumbs. But I know enough not to say: "I saw a Mediterranean guil in my garden." No: twitch speak prefers: "I had Med gull the other week. Garden tick." I did too. But oh, the condescension, even contempt I would arouse if it had been my first Mediterranean gull. Med gull? Huh! Dude's tick!

A dude, you see, is a person who has binoculars, likes binds, but is not to be taken seriously. An amateur, not an expert, a dilettante, not a Metaphorically speaking, everybody

MIADI MACO

is either a twitcher or a dude. Now it is possible that I have given the impression that the world of twitchers is deeply status-conscious, to the point of snobbery. That there is a hierarchy that amounts to a caste system. If I have given this impres-sion, then I have done an absolutely first-class job.

Twitching is riven with envy, ambition, pride, shame, hope and fear. Just like every other world. Twitching has its top people who have earned their place, its young aspirants, its threatening rivals, its no-hopers and never-wozzers. This does not make twitching unique.

Try hanging your blazer on lan

Botham's peg at a Test match. Try bagging the place by the radiator if you are an apprentice jump jockey. Try taking Tony Blair's chair at a Cabinet meeting. Try, for that matter, sitting in Mr Wilkins's choir stall — Mr Wilkins, who has led the choir (by about half a bar) for the past 40 years. It is tempting to assume that English people must create a class system wherever they find themselves. But it more to do with the human hunger for hierarchy. If we can't be boss, then it helps to know who is. It is not so much snobbery as

an incluctable part of human nature.

Meanwhile, status-seekers, some-

thing for the weekend. There's a Blyth's reed warbler and a pied

wheater in Yorkshire as I write

Regal rider

COCKING a snook at the dreary notion of a bicycling monarchy. King Juan Carlos is rapidly becoming the motorbiking King. The Spaniard has developed a dangerous weakness for white-knuckle rides on classic British motorbikes and is considering a dash round the notorious Isle of Man TT course. The King has been dropping hints that he would love a spin on a

Manx Norton, the legendary machines which growled to triumph in the 1950s. This has been discreetly conveyed to Allan Robinson, the secretary of the TT Riders Association. He has responded by sending an invitation to Madrid, suggesting that the King ride in a "lap of honour" before next year's Isle of Man race. In 90 years, the race has claimed 170 victims. "I'm not surprised the King

admires the Manx Norton," puffs a proud Mr Robinson. "For anyone who was young in the 1950s, it was

The King has acquired a private

collection of classic bikes and presents the trophies at the Spanish Grand Prix, but has never graced the handlebars of a Norton. But fear not - Summerfield Engineering, a little firm in Derbyshire, will supply a 500cc machine. "We are delighted to offer a bike fit for a king," splutters my man in the goggles, one Mike Summerfield.

So will the monarch be flying around the 37-mile circuit? This is something." purrs a delectable señora in the Spanish Royal Household, "that His Majesty is considering personally."



"Sorry, I didn't recognise you without your socks."



Brawn loser

RECENTLY I became acquainted with Ian Robertson, the former Scottish rugger player and commentator. By happy chance he coached the Prime Minister through his Oxford entrance exams while a teacher at Fettes.

Tony Blair was a real he tells me. "Tragically I taught him to read and write, but that was after his A levels. He was very bright and probably one of the best students I ever had, but he only got into Oxford." Robertson is

OLD TIMES "Our sovereignty doesn't belong to the Government to give away." (Frederick Forsyth, who once addressed all anti-Euro raily with the late James Goldsmith but now tells a group of Oxford students that he never had anything to do with the Referendum Party.)

a Cambridge man. "Tony was a very sharp operator but most certainly not a sportman. He was made to play but he didn't make it into any of the teams."

◆ REVENGE is in store for Tony Blair. The opening to the Com-monwealth shindig with its bongo drums and new Labour optimism was toe-curling (one poem chanted by teenage girls was so banal, it could have been penned by the Poet Laurente). At least Alastair Campbell insisted that bagpipes should still be played. But Ediaburgh Castle is not satisfied: pipers plan to play the Highland Laddie. a jibe at Mr Blair, who has shown scant enthusiasm for Scotland since Fettes.

Lean time

ONE OF Yorkshire's grandest stately homes may be reduced to a pile of 15th-century rubble: the walls of Ripley Castle. home to Sir Thomas Ingilby, are tilting so wild-ly that the place might fall down.

Sir Thomas, who inherited the pad for his 18th birthday, is clearly nervous. "One wing was built without foundations and the floors are collapsing as the walls lean Hin from vertical," he says.

Rather than be turfed out. Ingilby hopes to raise £750,000 with help from that social security office to the aristocracy. English Heritage. He should avoid dossing down in the stable-block; it is being held up with scaffolding.

● THIS regime is beastly to infor-mation officers. The latest victim is Graham Blakeway, of the Ministry of Agriculture. Two days after a free and frank chat over his role, Blakeway was rushed to hospital with suspected anging. Happily he is now recovered. "Graham was already under stress. He's had BSE for over a year." I am told. Wrestling with the agricultural effects rather than the disease, I trust.

Cut and blow

BRUCE Willis has had trouble getting his hair cut. To test the ease with which normal sorts can get into fashionable joints, Watchdog phoned Nicky Clarke, crimper to Cherie Booth and other regal types. Asking for a quick snip, he was told the master groomer was booked until the new year. Calling again as "Bruce Willis" (who is an American actor). he was sold he could be done that day. When Mr Willis - a pig farmer from Swindon - turned up for his trim, he strangely found the stylist "too busy".

NEW TIMES The Royal Namel Massault to Portamouth is moving into the booze business in time for Christmas. But cather then rum, it will self a range of French wines, Impliers will be able to choose from Nelson's Claret or Tratelgar Burgundy. It all sounds rather bloodthic



PARTY TIME HAMPSTEAD was playing its favourite game: the generation game. A play there brought together Kate Alderton, the daughter of John Alderton and Pauline Collins, and Nina Conti. the daughter of Tom Conti. Ms Collins's screen lover in Shirley Valentine Rate was watched admiringly by her "old friend"

Jack Davenport (Miles in This Life). Also present was, er. Tamara Beckwith. All raved about Boys' Life, naturellement. But Jack, grumbling that he not been told if there would be a new series of This Life, seemed reluctant to meet Ms Beckwith. What would I say to her?" he implored. This is a question that has stumped many fine brains.

JASPER GERARD



THE BILL FOR RIGHTS

Change is justified only if British rights are better protected

The Human Rights Bill introduced yesterday by the Government not only redeems a manifesto commitment; it is the fruit of long political and legal debate. The incorporation of the 1951 European Convention on Human Rights into British law has support from principled advocates across the political spectrum. They argue that this convention, drawn up after the war with the aim of ensuring that no European country would again violate basic human rights as Nazi Germany had done, embodies the finest in this country's legal traditions. Britain took the lead in drafting it and was its first signatory. But Britain, almost alone of the signatories, has not folded this convention into the body of domestic law.

That means that plaintiffs must take their cases to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, as 50 have successfully. done since 1966. This is an expensive and long drawn out process. This Bill would enable Britons to seek redress under the convention in the courts of this country.

Equally principled have been the reservations expressed. They begin with the general terms in which this short convention defines the human rights it protects and, still more importantly, the sweeping terms — such as "national security...the prevention of disorder . . . or health or morals" - in which restrictions on the exercise of these rights are framed. As the Government's White Paper says, interpretations of the convention have evolved down the years to reflect "changing. social attitudes". In Britain, framing laws to protect rights in the light of social evolution has always been a matter for Parliament. That process, whatever its detractors, has been a democratic guarantor of liberty.

However true it may be that the convention reflects the spirit of Magna Carta, the fact remains that such generality is at odds. with the detailed, case law-based practices of British justice. The justification for incorporation could only be that it enlarged the freedoms of the citizen under the law. But some articles in the convention could be interpreted in such a way as to restrict them instead. The question, who decides, is therefore of paramount importance.

Hence the second, equally serious reservation, which is that incorporation could erode

50th birthday with a glittering gala in

Chicago tomorrow. Last week she took

centre stage at a White House conference on

childcare issues. Next week she will visit

Northern Ireland and then travel to Che-

quers for a seminar on health and welfare

policy hosted by Tony Blair. The First Lady

is determined to reposition herself, for the

remainder of her time in Washington, as the

That she should seek an alternative image

is entirely understandable. In truth, Mrs.

Clinton holds one of the most impossible

posts in American politics. The notion of the

First Lady has no formal status. Despite

that, it has considerable standing. In this

century, the position was personified by

Eleanor Roosevelt. Mrs Clinton's courting of

controversy therefore puts her in excellent

company. But she was, at one point, the

She brought many of those problems on

herself. The idea of a "co-presidency" was an

affront to American democracy. The Presi-

dent's decision to put his wife in charge of his.

healthcare proposals was a disaster for both

of them. The shadow of Whitewater - and

the apparent misuse of the late Vincent

Foster's files — still hang over Mrs Clinton.

She could yet face charges of obstructing

justice. While she is stoutly defended

The Round Reading Room of the British Lib-

rary will close for the last time this evening

after 140 years. As with the death of all such

venerable institutions, there is room for

semiment. The room's mission statement

was magnificently humane: to make avail-

able free of charge any book that has been

published (at least in the English language).

Its design was a cathedral of the book. Books

lined its walls, the readers' desks formed the

spokes of a wheel, the hub provided space

for the catalogue, and over all soared the

dome. Its history is extensive and eccentric.

If all the books read, written, researched

and plagiarised there were stacked, they

would fill several miles of shelf. And many of

them might even be worth reading. Stories

have been set in the Reading Room, by such

presence who always sat in the same seat.

most disliked First Lady on record.

kinder, gentler Mrs Clinton

FIRST LADY, SECOND LOOK

Mrs Clinton may leave a legacy for Robert Dole

Farewell then Lady Macbeth Hello, Mother have done their cause more harm than good.

Teresa. Hillary Clinton will celebrate her She may come to be seen, more sympath-

American feminists, Mrs Clinton may well ... as, er. First Lord of the United States?

ROUND THE READING ROOMS

The dome is a cathedral, but the library is the global bookshelf

Market Apple 14

divisions established down the centuries between Parliament's legislative supremacy and the strictly interpretative function of the judiciary. This would certainly have been the case had the Government opted for a "strong" form of incorporation, empowering judges to exercise the doctrine of "implied reneal" and strike down any laws they found to be incompatible with the convention. In the most radical constitutional upheaval since the 1689 Bill of Rights, judges would have found themselves in a position, with which most would feel profoundly uncomfortable, of dictating to Parliament.

With the important exception of secondary legislation, the Bill presented by Jack Straw has not ventured down this path. Ministers will be required to show that all new legislation complies with the convention. But in the case of existing laws, the powers of the courts will be limited to drawing the attention of Parliament to any "incompatibility" with the convention. The Government would then move to change the law - as it already does if it loses a case at Strasbourg. But until it did, the legislation would remain in force.

That reduces the risks of clashes between the courts and Parliament; but does not eliminate them because in other respects, this Bill is less cautious. All public authorities will be legally bound to comply with the convention. If a court judges that they have done so, it may quash their decisions - even if they are otherwise lawful.

Still more disturbing is the proposed "fast track" for changing laws, following an adverse declaration by the courts. The Government proposes to do this under 90-minute orders. Such order can be rejected by Parliament, but scarcely scrutinised or amended with due care. Worse still, in "particularly urgent" cases, the order would take immediate effect, although it would expire after a short period if not approved by both Houses. Some might see this as only a step short of government by decree, hugely augmenting executive power at the expense of the legislature. The Government should give this deeper thought. The convention is noble in ambition and sweeping in scope. But this Bill could shift the balance between Parliament and the courts, irreversibly and in ways that may not be evident for some years.

cucally, as a transitional figure. Most of her

predecessors were not political figures. She

has strong views on almost every issue, yet

itwas assumed that, once she married a man

almost addicted to election campaigns, she

One of the features of the last presidential

contest was that Elizabeth Dole outshone

Mrs Clinton. Mrs Dole, a former Cabinet

member under Ronald Reagan and George

Bush, would have been an exceptionally

powerful adviser had her husband sat in the

Oval Office. Mrs Clinton was apparently

perplexed that her rival could be so political

but strikingly popular. In truth there was no

paradox. It was the very fact that Mrs Dole

had openly sought power in her own right

that made her respectable. Although a

decade older than Mrs Clinton, Mrs Dole is,

in many senses, the truly modern woman.

Washington is now awash with spe-

culation that Mrs Dole might run for the

White House herself in three years' time.

Democratic strategists — in solemn mood —

are almost as one in the belief that she would

be by far the most difficult Republican to

beat. It is a little early - with 1,110 days left

to assess her electoral prospects. It would,

though, be the supreme irony if the person

who benefited from the highly activist pre-

cedent set by Mrs Clinton were Robert Dole,

Louis MacNeice wrote a poem to the

Reading Room, with an extended simile

about a beehive, "Honey and wax, the

accumulation of years". And his honey and

wax (and debris) comprise the greatest

collection of 1,000 years of English literature.

should not sag into sentimentality. For it can

sound like mourning for a plush Victorian

restaurant, where one would be alarmed to

look into the kitchen. The Reading Room

even smells of cabbage, though the keepers

in their blue uniforms were dressed more

like prison warders than waiters. The cent-

ral heating was oppressive, which was why

impoverished intellectuals such as Gandhi

came to roost there. And it could take days

The reading rooms in the new British Lib-

rary will open their doors next month. As we

report in the Magazine, they will provide

modern facilities, a better menu and faster

service. They will be open free to the general

public, not just to the elite selected for a read-

er's ticket. And they will conserve the books

instead of destroying them by constant

shuttling around London. They are are a

step on the road to the global bookshelf. And

for those haunted by old ghosts, the Round

Room will be preserved, with its blue seats,

desks and reading lights, as a library related

to the British Museum's collections. So it

will always be an historic room of the

extraordinary culture of the British book.

and sometimes months to get served.

But sentiment for the Reading Room

could not seek a political career herself.

So long as the plaintiff can prove any degree of contributory fault by an-

creasing use of this system in personal injury cases, including many in which legal aid would not have been available; but those cases might well have been taken on by solicitors without conditional fees, in the expectation of success and at the risk of losing and having to seek to recover costs from a resentful client.

Without further research the suspi-

MICHAEL GOULD (Senior lecturer). Staffordshire University, Law School, Leek Road. Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. October 23.

National Consumer Council

Sir, The legal aid system needs reform, but it does provide access to justice for many people who are unable to afford litigation. To scrap a large part of it in favour of "no win, no fee"

agreements is potentially dangerous. We know of no testing whatsoever of the viability of "no win, no fee" ag-

In seizing on this desperate measure, the Lord Chancellor appears to have disregarded the potential of Lord Woolf's reforms of civil justice to bring down the costs of legal aid. There is a real danger that the new proposals will deny heip to the most vulnerable

Yours sincerely, RUTH EVANS. Director. National Consumer Council, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1. October 21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be Januari to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lord Chancellor's legal aid reforms

From Mr Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby (Labour)

Sir. The proposal by Lord Irvine of Lairg to extend the use of conditional fees (report, October 18: leading article, October 23) may or more likely may not bring more control of legal aid and more justice for the middle

It will denrive some lawyers of their excessive fees. Yet it is certainly not going to bring justice to the great majority of people in their disputes with the wealthy and powerful. By their very nature their cases initially don't look promising. The cards are always stacked against them. Who is going to fight them on conditional fees?

if legal aid goes, something has to replace it. Conditional fees are not enough. There ought to be a salety net, as Benedict Birnberg described in your Law pages (October 21). This would consist of salaried lawyers taking on civil and criminal lingation. Le-gal aid has a bad reputation because it so vastly enriches lawyers who are defending litigants whose poverty is

What is required is a national network of law centres and public defenders based in every large community. This would be cheaper than legal aid, because the lawyers would be employed, not part of private practice, and they would be non-profitmaking. Conditional fees could accrue in them and they could take on private clients as well to provide genuine competi-tion with private practice and keep it

on its toes. The legal aid gravy train has finally hit the buffers. As the wreckage is cleared away it must be replaced with a system that is equitable, efficient and accessible to all. It is time for us to put into practice the proposals by Lord Rushcliffe, 50 years on albeit, and enact a National Legal Service based on a right to representation.

Yours faithfully, AUSTIN MITCHELL (Chair, Campaign for a National Legal Service). House of Commons. October 23.

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, As you rightly say in your leading article today, conditional fees have so far largely been confined to personal injury cases, in which it is usually relatively easy to assess the risk in-

other party then he will recover some damages and usually be awarded most, if not all, of his costs against that other party. The other party will usually also be insured, making recovery of sums awarded straightforward. Where such factors are not present, such as in insolvency work, the use of conditional fees although possible has been minimal.

Recent research has indicated in-

cion must linger that the main effect so far of conditional fees is to allow some personal injury lawyers to re-cover higher fees at the expense of clients. To justify an extension of these agreements and withdraw legal aid from some areas of work would at best be premature and at worst dis-

From the Director of the

reements from the consumer's perspective. No evidence is available on now well clients understand them or how satisfactory they have proved in practice. Nor do we know whether clients with good cases have been refused help by over-cautious solicitors. It is therefore extremely disconcerting that the Lord Chancellor proposes to give conditional fees such a key role in our legal system at this stage.

with out being a panacea for the better-off.

Holbein's trick skull under the lens

From Mr S. C. Gardiner

Sir, The work of an art restorer, his science, his skill, his insight, is totally sublimated to that of the artist whose work he is restoring.

The problem for the viewer of older artwork (all of which has had to undergo some restoration) is how restoration is to be judged; in what way does restoration enlighten us in the present time? Or, is our perception of Holbein's The Ambassadors (report, October 20) to be renovated by the particular view taken by an individual restorer? Certainly not.

Martin Wyld's work on the painting was to reveal as much of Holbein's original paintwork that was extant at the time of restoration and to remove all latterly-added material which overlaid it. He confined his restoration (inpainting) to the areas where the original paint had been lost (ie, flaked off the surface or totally removed in previous cleanings). With modern scientific investigative techniques it is quite possible to determine original paint from later overpainting.

Thus it becomes possible for the gallery viewer to see more Holbein, and less of the 18th and 19th-century accretions, which some people have come to know and love. We can now decide for ourselves from what perspective to view that skuli.

Yours faithfully. S. C. GARDINER (Art restorer), 23 Hampton Road, Worcester Park, Surrey. October 21.

From Professor R. A. Weale

Sir, Your informative report on the problem of the skull did not refer to the theory prevalent years ago, according to which the painting was destined to be placed near the top of a staircase. Consequently those ascending the stairs would see and perceive the skull before they could read the rest of the canvas.

That interpretation appears to conflict with your advice, namely that the skull should be viewed from the top right-hand corner of the detail you published: it can also be viewed - and recognised - when viewed from the

bottom left.

The notion supported by Mr Michael Daley that the skull should be viewed through a glass cylinder is interesting but seems a little far-fetched. I have looked at both the cleaned and the unrestored versions in your article through a cylindrical piece of perspex 2.5 cm in diameter. In either case the skull is to be seen: what is significant, however, is that the glass rod has to be held at an appreciable angle from the vertical.

It is unlikely that Holbein would have painted this trick to amuse an audience unconversant with the prin-ciples of classical optics. It is more probable that the optician, Edgar R. Samuel, who discovered the phenomenon would have realised that anamorphic images are distended in one direction, and that this can be compensated with a cylindrical lens.

Yours very truly, ROBERT WEALE, King's College London, Cornwall House, Waterloo Road, SEI. October, 21.

From Mr Edgar R. Samuel

Sir, I am delighted that Mr Michael Daley has supported my hypothesis, which I explained in the 1963 Burlington Magazine, that Holbein designed the anamorphic skull in The Ambassadors to be viewed from in front of the painting through a negative cylindrical lens (of between -25 and -30 dioptres): in other words through the sides of a thick glass tube, probably a flower vase.

Unfortunately I cannot support his view that the restoration of the painting has damaged it. I have viewed the painting since it was restored and the image through a transparent tube is just as good as before the restoration. The painting is now cleaner and clearer than ever. I think that the National Gallery restorers did a great job.

EDGAR R. SAMUEL Reform Club, Pall Mall, SWI.

Changing childbirth

From Baroness Cumberlege

Sir, Nigella Lawson's experience of childbirth under the "one-to-one" scheme which followed the 1993 government report, Changing Child-birth, is marvellous (article, October

Thousands of mothers are experiencing similar midwife-led care, involving the same midwife through pregnancy, birth and aftercare, but some of the units involved are under threat of closure. The reason is, of course, money: the production line is perceived to be cheaper than individual care. In fact the difference in cost is far from proven. What is expensive is the transition period from one system to another when both may, for a short while, be operating in parallel.

As a junior Health Minister I took the very unusual decision to chair the committee which produced Changing Childbirth and to use my influence to implement its recommendations. I was and still am convinced that giving women the opportunity to choose how

fect both upon the child's development and family life. If birth is a "happy event" mother and child thrive from the start, If it is a traumatic experience the mother, and probably the child, have to overcome the repercussions of that trauma. Government reports cannot guarantee an easy birth, but "happy event". I am well aware that short-term

their baby is born has a profound ef-

funding crises are also traumatic for those allocating resources, but investing in birth has a proven return in better health for life. The expert committee which produced Changing Childbirth was non party-political and the report gained cross-party support. I do not think it is too much to ask that women be given choice and respect in return for producing and nurturing the next generation.

Yours sincerely, JULIA CUMBERLEGE (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health, 1992-97).

Gypsies from Slovakia

Sir, I write to challenge two state-

ments in your report, "Romany refu-

gees head for Britain after Canada

closes the door" (October 20; letter,

October 22). First you write: "Curfews have been imposed in Slovak vil-

lages". There were attempts by some

local authorities to impose curfews as

long ago as 1993 but, under strong

pressure from the national Govern-

ment and general public, these were

lifted in a couple of weeks, so there are

no curfews in Slovak villages now.
You go on: "... the Slovak Government has cut child benefit to Roman-

ies . . . ". There have been no such cuts.

Slovak law guarantees better benefits

for families with more children and

Romanies in Slovakia enjoy the same

rights as other citizens. Moreover, in

1991 Romanies were granted a status

of national minority and their rights

are guaranteed by the Slovak Consti-

tution and other laws in compliance

with generally valid international

Embassy of the Slovak Republic,

25 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8.

standards.

Sincerely yours, IGOR SLOBODNIK,

From the Ambassador of the

Slovak Republic

Bedrock of art

From Sir Michael Maxwell

Sir, I have recently been asked, and given consent, for some boulders to be removed from the shoreline at Port William. These boulders, weighing up to one ton, are to be moved by boat or by helicopter and then fired in a kiin for a considerable period of time.

The result will be displayed in the new Museum of Scotland, which will open in Edinburgh next year. Part of the display will be indoors and will show the effect of heat on rock, and part will be outside to show the effect of water on heated rock. This is intended to be thought-provoking.

I am not familiar with the artist or his work but can only admire his achievement in obtaining funding for such a project, especially as Scotland and indeed Edinburgh is not particularly short on rock, volcanic or otherwise, and water.

Perhaps the whole system of how such projects are commissioned and if the public are getting value for money might be reviewed. Dead sheep are cheaper to process and move.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MAXWELL. Monreith House. Port William, Galloway. October 21.

Wheels under fire

From Mr S. C. Moss

Sir, I was rather amused by your report. "Housewife cycles into a speed trap at 43mph" (October 16), but while congratulating Mrs Ros Jones on her obvious improvement in fitness feel it does raise one or two questions.

That she apparently achieved the feat on a road described by the police as "not hilly at all", against the background of the entire ride in which she covered just seven miles in 45 minutes (averaging less than 10mph), is nothing short of amazing. As a first-category racing cyclist, I myself would consider a ride of 43mph noteworthy on my lightweight racer, let alone a mountain hike

October 22. PC Alan Rowlands may well point to "high" gearing on the mountain bike, but such gearing still requires "high" human effort to produce anything like 40mph on the flat to overcome wind resistance: the current wo-

men's world record over 200 metres is

Is it just possible that the police speed radar in fact picked up another vehicle? Cyclists, after all, are not the biggest of targets. Has the radar gun actually been tested on cyclists?

10.8 seconds, just under 42mph.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN C. MOSS, 58 Elmhurst Road. West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Choice of 'saints' for Abbey niches

From Mrs Joanna Malins

Sir. I hope that future generations will find it as unacceptable as I do now, that of the ten saints and martyrs to be commemorated at Westminster Abbey (report, October 18), none is - nor, thanks to 1997 political correctness could be - English.

Following his public beheading by the Japanese in the Gilbert Islands, The Mission Chronicle wrote of the Reverend Alfred Sadd, "Missing, helieved immortal". Obviously not in Westminster Abbey.

Yours faithfully, JOANNA MALINS, Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.

From Mr Hazhir Teimourian

Sir. Your report today that a committee at Westminster Abbey has decided to change the building's appearance after 800 years by installing the statues of ten modern people over the

Great West Door is almost incredible. Any such change to a Grade II listed building in the remotest part of the country would cause opposition. Yet we are expected to remain silent in the face of an act of historic vandalism which would, in the process, also destroy the elegant simplicity of the space

above that famous door. No wonder that no British figure has been chosen to be among the commemorated "saints". The committee obviously seeks protection behind the new taboo of multiculturalism.

Yours sincerely. H. TEIMOURIAN, 107 Pall Mail, SWI. October 18.

From the Chaplain of St John's School, Leatherhead

Sir. The Archdeacon of York appropriately puts forward one of the British martyrs of the 20th century who should have featured in Westminster

Abbey's niches. Father Vivian Redlich (1905-42) remains an inspiration to pupils of his former school, where a chapel is dedicated to his memory and which portrays his missionary work in Papua New Guinea and his execution on

Buna Beach in August 1942. As news of his death reached his friends. Redlich was described as "the missionary we will never forget". Let us hope that, at the next opportunity to remember the saints of our own time, we do not forget this very British priest and martyr who was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Yours faithfully, MATTHEW LAWSON (Chaplain), St John's School, Leatherhead, Surrey. October 20.

From Rabbi Rachel Montagu

Sir, Does the Church of England really propose to erect a statue at Westminster Abbey to Father Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish priest who died in Auschwitz? His martyr's death does not outweigh his prewar identification with an anti-Semitic journal. I have several times seen it falsely suggested that he died taking a Jew's place in the gas chamber - in fact he replaced

another Christian. It is hard to comprehend why the Church of England should honour this man at the expense of future good relations with the Jewish community. who will be horrified, and rightly so, at this insensitive plan.

Yours faithfully, RACHEL MONTAGU, 2 Exeter Road, NW2.

From Mr Graham Weeks

Sir. The choice of modern martyrs for Westminster Abbey is indeed questionable. Some are well known and worthy, others little known. One is of dubious Christian character and questionably martyred for Christianity, namely Martin Luther King.

believe that we should have had some contemporary British martyrs, such as Eric Liddell or missionaries killed in the Congo uprising.

Yours faithfully. GRAHAM WÉEKS, 71 Lee Road, Greenford, Middlesex. weeks-g@dircon.co.uk October 18.

Favourite firsts

From Professor Emeritus Isabel de Madariaga, FBA

Sir, Surely one of the most splendid first lines in literature (letters, October 18) is: "Take my camel, dear," said my aunt Dot,

as she climbed down from this animal on her return from High Mass. (Rose Macaulay, The Towers of Trebizond, 1956).

Yours truly, ISABEL de MADARIAGA, 25 Southwood Lawn Road, No. imad@btinternet.com

From Mr Neville Moray

Sir, In the white heat of competition, how could one overlook the opening of Dan Mannix's Memoirs of a Sword-

Swallower (1951): I probably never would have become Amer-ica's leading fire-eater if Flamo the Great hadn't happened to explode that night in front of Krinko's Great Combined Carnival Side Shows

Yours faithfully NEVILLE MORAY, 10a Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3. October 21.

as David Lodge, Malcolm Muggeridge and Max Beerbohm. The novels tend to be detective stories, not concerned with scholar-

ship so much as with getting the body into the stacks in one of the keepers' trolleys. Marx spent years writing Das Kapital there, and Lenin and Trotsky used it as their the home from home before they returned home to blow up other men's homes. Bernard Shaw did most of his reading there. And Eric Partridge spent 50 years at desk Kl. interrupted from his pioneering studies of slang only by such diversions as Wimbledon fortnight and the Second World War. Samuel Erewhon Butler was another daily



COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE October 24: The Crown Prince of

The Opeen and The Duke of Edinburgh later gave a Reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for representatives of the media covering the Commonwealth Heads of Gov-

Afterwards Dr the Hon Kenny Anthony (Prime Minister of St Lucia) and the Hon Mr Inder Kumar Gujral (Prime Minister of the Republic of India) were received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh and The Prince of Wales, this afternoon opened the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at the Edinburgh Conference Centre.

Conterence Centre.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Dinner this evening for Commonwealth Heads of Government at which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. The Prince of Wales. The Princess Royal and Control Theoretic Laurence NN were

Captain Timothy Laurence RN were present.

The following were invited: The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Prime Minister of Australia and Mrs Howard, the Prime Minister of the Bahamas and Prime Minuster of the Buhamas and Mrs Ingraham, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Shelkh Rehana, the Prime Minister of Barbados and Mrs Arthur, the Prime Minister of Belize. The President of Botswana and Lady Masire, The Sultan of Brunel Darussalam, the Prime Minister of Camerona, the Prime Minister of Cameroon, the Prime Minister of Cameroon, the Prime Minister of Canada and Mrs Chretien. The President of Cyprus and Mrs Clerides, the Prime Minister of Dominies, the Prime Minister of Fiji and Mrs Rabuka. The President of the Garabla and Mrs Tuti Faal-Janunen, The President of Ghana and Mrs Rawlings, the Prime Minister of Gernada and Mrs Mitchell. iner of Grenada and Mrs Mitchell, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, the Prime Minister of India and Mrs Gujral, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and international Co-Opera-Affairs and international Co-Operation of Kenya, The President of Kirlbati and Madame Keina Tito. the Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho. The President of the Republic of Malawi and Madame Muluzi. the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Datin Seri Dr Sitt Hasmah. The President of the Republic of Maladives, the Prime Minister of Maladives, the Prime Minister of Maurithus and Mrs Ramgoolam. The President of Mazambique and Mrs Chissano, The Mozambique and Mrs Chisssro. The President of Namibia and Mrs Nujoma, the Prime Minister of New

Zealand and Mrs Bolger, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of

Pakistan and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz, the Deputy Prime Minister of

Papua New Guinea and Mrs Halveta, the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, the Prime Minister

of St Lucia, the Prime Minister of St

ncent and the Grenadines and list Louise Missiell, the Minister of

Education of Samoa, the Vice President of the Republic of Saychelles and Mrs Michel, The President of Sierra

Leone and Mrs Kabbah, the Prime Minister of Singapore, the December

Leone and Mrs Kabbah, the Prime Minister of Singapore, the Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, The President of the Republic of South Africa and Mrs Graca Machel, The President of Sri Lanks. The King of Swaziland and The Inkhosikati, The President of Tanzania and Mrs Mkapa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deferoe of Tonas, the

Affairs and Defence of Tonga, the

Tobago and Mrs Panday. The President of Uganda and Mrs Museveni. the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Mrs Blair, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, the Vice President of Zambia. The President of Zimbabwe and Mrs Mugabe, and the and Mrs Anyaoku. Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike

Kuniaratunga (President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka), presented to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Golden Wedding gifts on behalf of the Commonwealth Heads of Govern-

The Duke of Edinburgh this after-noon attended a Reception to promote the Army Cadet Force Association in nd at the Army Headquarters Scorland, Craigiehall, South Queensferry, West Lothian,

October 24: the Duke of York, Trustee, this evening attended a Dinner given by the Trustees of Lakefield College School at the Gran-ite Club, Toronto, Canada. October 24: The Prince Edward arrived at Cardiff Railway Station this afternoon and was received by

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR). His Royal Highness, Trustee, this reening held a Reception, followed by Dinner, for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wales on board HMY Britannia, Queen Alexandra

Dock, Cardiff. October 24: The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the Common-wealth Exhibitions in the City Art Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh, and was received by Mr James Hartie (Denuty Heutspan) of the City Hastie (Deputy Lieutenant of the City

or Edmourgn.

Her Royal Highness, Visitor, afterwards attended a Reception in the grounds of St Mary's Cathedral Workshop Project, Manor Piace, Editals resh

Edinourgh.

ST JAMES > PALACE

October 24: The Prince of Wales,
Pairon, this afternoon took part in a
tree planting ceremony in Princes
Street Gardens. Edinburgh, to mark
the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the
International Tree Foundation.

Life Rough Highways lates wishind

His Royal Highness later visited the Commonwealth Centra, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, noured displays by Commonwealth Non-Governmental Organisations and joined the final session of the YORK HOUSE

YORK HOUSE
October 24: The Duke of Kent, Vice
Chairman, the British Overseas
Trade Board, this afternoon called
upon The President of the Republic of Korea (Mr Kim Young-sam) and later called upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Yoo Chong-ha) in

Secul Korm.
The Duchess of Kent, Patron, Aldeburgh Festival Anniversary Appeal, this evening attended a Concert as part of the Aldeburgh October Britten Festival at Snape Maldings concert Hall, Akleburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk (the Lord Beistead).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE October 24: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, on completion of the visit to the United States of America.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Commonwealth Centre Exhibition of Non-Governmental Organisations in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh at 9.45.

Prince Edward, rustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will visit the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation at 9.45; will open the all-weather hockey pitch at Whitchurch High School, Cardiff, at 11.00; will visit has the present the last control of the control of School, Cardiff, at 11,00; will visit HM Prison Prescoed, Usk, Gwent, at 12.30; as trustee will visit Haberdash-ers Monmouth School for Girls, Monmouth 206; will visit Monmouth School at 3.05; and as trustee. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wales, will altered a monetic and Discourse. will attend a reception and Dinner on board HMY Britannia, Queen Alexandra Dock, Cardiff at 6.30.

The Process Royal, Commandant in Chief, Women's Transport Service (FANY) will amend the 90th anniversary service of thanksgiving and commemoration, the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 3.00; and will attend the 90th anniversary reunion cocktail party at the Royal Hospital Chelsea at 6.30.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron. Aldeburgh Festival Anniversary Ap-peal, will attend the Aldeburgh October Britten Festival, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, at 6.50. TOMORROW: The Prince of Wales, president, The Prince's Trust, will attend a Commonwealth in Concert evening at the Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh at 7.15,

Luncheon

Tallow Chandlers' Company
Mr J.B.N. Kurkjian, Master of the
Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented the company's medals and awards to young employees in the Federation of Fats, Oils and Seeds Association, the Duncan Knight Scholarship to Miss C. Balsa and the Theatre Lighting Award to Miss N. Kanai at a function held yesterday at Tallow Chondlers. Hell. Tailow Chandlers' Hall.

Reception

Friends of the Dineese in Europe The Right Rev J.W. Hind, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, was the cele-brant at a Mass held yesterday at St Michael's, Cornhill. The Bishop of Basingstoke gave an address. The Friends of the Diocese in Europe gave a reception alterwards at Drapers' Hall.



Judith Seddon, of Penn, Buckinghamshire, and Damian Cocking, of Kington Magna, Dorset, who have recently announced their engagement

Memorial service

Dr Louis Cohen A celebration of the life and work of Dr Louis Cohen, physicist and former Executive Secretary of the Institute of Physics, was held yesterday at the institute.

Miss Jessica Cohen (daughter) read from Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll. Sir Brian Pippard, FRS, read from the works of Charles Darwin, Mr John Lewis from the works of Winston Churchill and Sir John Mason from the works of Richard Strauss. Dr Cohen's contributions to physics were recalled by Professor Roland Dobbs, Professor Derek Martin. Mr Gero Thomas and Dr Alun Jones. Music was played by a string quartet from the Royal ny of Music. Among others

present were.

Mrs Cohen (widow), Mr Jonathan Cohen (son) and Dr Barren Shah, Mr Richard Boon and Miss Deborah Cohen (son-In-law and daughter).

Lord and Lady Flowers, Dr Bas Pease, Professor Roger Blin-Suyle, Dr Cilve Foxell and Sir Amold Wolfendale (past presidents of the institute). Dr Brian Manley (president, Professor Ian Butterwonth, Professor John Crangle, Professor Cyril Hogarth, Dr Ronald Kesy, Dr Hymle Rose and past and present council members and staff of the institute. METERNI WETER

ROCK

MEDLEY OF CLASSICS

Dionne Warwick

Apollo, Victoria

seems quite as daunting as the notorious All-England Summarize Proust Compe

tition. How to encapsulate, within a

manageable span, the highlights merely of her work with Burt Bacharach and

Hal David, the composer and lyricist whose fertility provided her with an apprently endiess series of classic songs during the Sixties? How to deal with her

treatments of standards from other

sources, and with the underregarded material stemming from the early Seven-

ties, when, in terms of commercial

success, she paused before achieving her

Many artists of pronounced longevity,

from Duke Ellington to Diana Ross,

have indulged in medleys as the only

sensible method of satisfying an audi-

ence in which each member is avid to

hear his own particular favourite. Practi-

cally all of them have ended up doing everyone a disservice. Miss Warwick's,

on the other hand, is one of the great

The medley begins in 1962, with Bacharach and David's Don't Make Me

Over and ends in 1975 with Then Came

You", devised for her by Bacharach's pre-

eminent disciple, Thom Bell. In between

are 19 further examples of the sophisti-

cated techniques by which Bacharach

glories of contemporary concert-going.

second wind?

In prospect, Dionne Warwick's medley

Service dinners

ON THIS DAY

October 25, 1982

When this review appeared Dionne Warwick had already had a long and successful career. Today she is still

wowing the crowds as the picture, taken

this summer in Vienna, shows

and David wedded uptown soul music to

the Broadway show song, plus "You've

Lost That Loving Feeling", by Spector, Mann and Well, and the theme from

Valley of the Dolls, by Andre and Dory

The songs are pieced together by a series of brilliantly conceived jump-cuts,

often editing into verses or straight to a

chorus to expose the glowing heart of a

melody or the point of one of David's

deceptively homespun lyrics. Bachar-

ach's felicitous imagination is preserved in the stabbing flugel-horn figures of "Walk On By" and the tympani punctua-

tions of "Anyone Who Had a Heart."

The device of slowing down some

ballads very slightly ("A House Is Not a Home", "Message to Michael") and of fractionally speeding up those based on

tlying Latin rhythms ("I Say A Little Prayer", "There's Always Something There to Remind Me") is far from

cavalier: it cancels the possibility of a

经金额的总统

HMS President RNR, London The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended the annual Trafalgar dinner held onboard HMS President lust nead outpoor PANS Producting an injet. The toast to the Immortal Memory was proposed by Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Vice-Crite of the Defence Staff. The Lord Mayor and the Bishop of Sodor and Man also spoke. The guests were received by Commander R.G. Avis, Command-ing Officer, and Lieutenant-Com-

mander I.M. Dunkley, Mess President, was in the chair. Among recident, was in the clair. Along others present were Captain A H Spratt-Kanswill (HMS President Retired Officers' Association), the Prima Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, Masters of the Coopers' Company and the Company of Master Mariners, members of the Wardpoom Mess and representatives of the Fish-moners' Company.

Cambridge University Royal Naval Unit Navau Unit
The Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire attended a Trafalgar Night
Dinner of the Cambridge University
Royal Navai Unit held last right at
Peterhouse, Cambridge. LieutenaniCommander R.M. Thomborough
reselded Commonder N.C.E. Catilid. Commander K.M. Inornborough presided. Commodore N.C.F. Guild. Director, Combat Systems and Equipment, was the guest of honour and Dr M.E. Richardson, Director for Continuing Education to Cambridge University, was the principal academic guest. Lieutenant Commander

Previn.

M.D. Mackemie received the guests who included Brigadier S. Hill, Director of Naval Recruiting, and Commodore C.M.J. Carson.

The King's Troup RHA Fleid Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner, St James's Park, was the senior guest at an officers' diamer held last night at St John's Wood Barracks to mark the 50th anniversary of The King's Troop

Dinners Guild of Freeman of the City

Mr Tony Baldry, MP, entertained members of the Gulld of Freumen of the City of London and their guests at dinner last night at the House of Commons, Sir Anthony Grant, Master, also spoke.

Furty Clash
Mr Jack Bulley, President of the Forty
Club, presented the Hanry Grierson
Tropky to Giles Haywood, Captain of
Cricket at Lancing College, at the
annual dinner of the club held lass
into the Involve Millione Section 1 against demore of the club lests was night at the London Hilton on Park, Lane. Mr Brian Bolus, the President of MCC, the Provost Ensaritus of Blackburn and Professor David Pardie of Hull Royal Infirmary were

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Johann Strauss the Younger, composer of The Blue Danube, Vienna, 1825; Georges Bizet, composer, Paris, 1838; Pablo Picasso, painter, Malaga, Spain, 1981.

DEATHS: Stephen, King of England, reigned 1135-54, Dover, 1154; Geoffrey Chaucer, poet. London, 1400; Sir Charles Hallé, planist and conductor, Manchester, 1895; Mary McCarthy, novelist, New

The English Army defeated the French at the Battle of Agincourt.

The Charge of the Light Brigade took place at Balaciava, 1854. TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Domcomposer, Naples, 1685; Mahaila Jackson, gospel singer, New Orleans, 1911.

DEATHS: Alfred the Great, King of the West Nazons 671-99, London, 899; William Hogarth, painter and engraver. London, 1764: Alma Cogan, singer, 1966.

The gunfight at the OK Corral took place at Tombstone, Arizona, 1881. The Territorial Army was founded by Richard Haldane, Secretary of State for War, 1907.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.C. Jealous

Mr S. Oakland

Mr O.C. Rose

and Dr J.R. McCabe

Staplehurst, Kent. Mr M.D. Sante

drid, Spain.

Mr J.W. Woods

Marriage

and Miss P. Cowas

Mr N. Dunn

and Miss G.B. Pocock

and Miss R.M. Gunston

The engagement is announced herween Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Jealous, of St

Annes-on-Sea, Fylde, and Rosa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs

The engagement is announced between Simon Oakland, of

London, and Amanda, youngest

daughter of Mrs Anne-Marie Heighway, of Bray.

The engagement is announced between Owen, son of Mr and Mrs

Brian Rose, of Great Waldingfield, Suffolk, and Jennie, daughter of

Mr and Mrs Jeremy McCabe, of

and Señorita E. Sancho Leon The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Sapte, of

Watford, Hernfordshire, Elena daughter of Don Rafael Sancho Candela and Dona

Consuelo Leon Gonzalez, of Ma-

The engagement is announced between John (Bill), son of the late

Major Huia Woods and of Mrs Jean Woods, of Salisbury, Wilr-shire, and Georgina, daughter of Mr M.D. Pocock, of Sweden, and

Mrs Elizabeth Ogilvie, of Lockton. North Yorkshire.

The marriage took place on Octo-ber 9, 1997, in Mauritius, between

Neil, youngest son of Captain and Mrs David Dunn, of Hampshire,

and Phillips, elder daughter of Major Cowan, read, of Germany,

D.B. Gunston, of Singapore.

and Miss A. Heighway

Mr D.A. Clark

and Miss S.F. Chilcott The engagement is announced between Donald, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Clark, of Bentworth, Hampshire, and Carmel Indiana USA and Sian, elder daughter of the late Mr Arthur Chilcon and of Dr Ruth Chilcott, of Keston, Kent. Dr P.J. Conaghan

and Miss E.T. Errington The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mrs H. Conagnan and the late Mr W. Conaghan, of Corby, North-smptonshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Errington, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr I.J. Hiscock and Miss S.C. Baled The engagement is announced between Ian, son of-Mr and Mrs Barry Histock, of Broadstone, Oorset, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Baird, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

Mr S.J. Kemp
and Miss R.K. Hipwell
The engagement is announced
between Stephen, son of Mr and
Mrs Brian Kemp, of Cavendish,
Suffolk, and Emma Kate, youngest
daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter
Hipwell, of Bradfield St Clare,
Suffolk.

Mr N.L. Musk and Min J.E. Wood

The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs william Musk, of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mr David Wood, of Milton Ernest, Bedford, and of Mrs Arm Wood, of Great Shelford, Cambridge.

Dr J.C.R. Ward and Miss O.C. Dent The engagement is amnounced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Ward, of Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancaspure,

and Olivia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Dent, of Wooldale, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire.

Weekend birthdays TODAY:

Sir Robert Andrew, civil servant, 69; Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Beverley, 62; Sir Martin Gilbert, historian, 61; Mr Michael Lawrence, former chief-esecutive, the Stock Euchange, 54; Mr Peter McHugh, director of programmes, GMTV, 51; Sir David Manuel Lewis, Lord-Lieutenant of Opfici 27, 51; John Marthesen (Covint 27, 51; John Marthese (Covint 27, 51; J Sir David Mannel Lewis, Lord-Lieurenant of Dyfed, 70; Sir John MayhewSanders, company chairman, 60; Mr.
Joe Mercar, racing manager, 63; Sir
George Russell, former chairman,
ITC, 62; Mr. A.C. Smith, former chairman,
ITC, 62; Mr. A.C. Smith, former cheir
ceconive, TCCB, 61; Mr. Keith Taylor,
chairman and chief executive, Esso
UK, 59; Miss Gallins Vistnevskaya,
soprano, 71; Dame Gillian Wagner,
former chairman, court of governors,
former chairman, court of governors,
Thomas Coram Foundation for children, 70; Miss Judith Weleminsky,
independent management consultent, 47; Professor D.J. Wiseman,
PBA, Emerius Professor of Assyriology, London University, 79.

and Mrs Shaunine Cowan, Barford St Martin. MOXINOMOT The Viscount of Arbuthnott, KT, 73: Mr. John Arden, playwright, 67; Mr. Ian Chapman, publisher, 72; Sir Percy Cradock, former diplomat, 74; Mr Paul Daneman, actor, 72; Professor W.A. Deer, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge University, Chancellor, Cambridge University, 87; Mr Robert Edwards, former 87: Mr Robert Edwards, former Editor, Sunday Mirror, 72; Professor R.A. Hinde, FRS, former Master, St Iota's College, Cambridge, 74; Mr Bob Hoskins, actor, 55; Mr Peter Josfin, Chief Constable, Warwick-shire, 54; Professor A.M. Lucas, Principal, King's College London, 50; Sir Donald MacDougall, economists Sty Veccung Malvaron, 48; Mr. Adam Sty Veccung Malvaron, 48; Mr. Adam Sir Donald MacDougall, economist, 85; Viscount Malvern, 48; Mr Adam Mars-Jones, novelist and film critic, 43; Lord Mollay, 79; Mr György Pauk, violitaint, 61; the Hon Ton Sackville, former MP, 47; Lord Stanion, 84; Professor Sir Guenter Treital, FBA, QC, Emerius Professor & Racifeth Law, Orderd Lindwestiv.

MIAIN O

of English Law, O. 69; Lord Wylle, 74.



BMDS: 0171 680 6880

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

Lord, and he will exalt you. Friends, you must nover	BURTHS		
speak ill of one another. James 4 : 10	SCOTT - On 6th October Neura (née Heatou) a		
BIRTHS	Giles, a daughter, Soph Jonna Nessa.		
AFFLECK-TRUI - On 30th September in Hong Kong, to Ruby and Sean, twin some,			
brothers for Jaz. BALL - On 23rd October to Lanbel (nee Roomey) and	VERLANDER - On October 16 of The Portland Hospital Robert and Andrea, 2 so Dashiell Robert. Mar		

SHOUGHTON - On 22nd October to Mary (nee Beven) and Tim, a son, Jethro Simon, a brother for Octavia and

a I

Magen - On 22nd October, to Jillian (née Fetty) and Andrew, a daughter, Himboth Alexanda, a choir

MARKES - On 21st October, at home, to Lucy and Chardie, a daughter, Ella Hargaret Hayland, a sister for Dalay, Some and Gregory. MURRAY - On October 16th to Dee and David, a son, William Wycliffe, a brother for Grace.

at The Portland Hospital, to O'COMMOR - On October 23rd at The Portland Respital, to Karon and John, a daughter, Madeline Helen Jemina, a

murmed - On 14th Ottober 1997, at Epsom General Hospital to Andrew and Annual Mark (on Distance) a bountful daughter, Ellen Insumah YOUNG - On October 9th, to Andrea and Mark, a son, Luke Peter James, a brother for Gus and Polly.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES October 1947 at Priory Chapel, Maintenes, Google to Joyce, Great is God's faithfulness

DEATHS BEACH - On October 23rd 1997, Kenneth Beach of 1997, Kenneth Beach of Tonbridge. Dearly loved by his wife Jane and all the family. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations to Imperial Cancer Humann Tuni can be sent c/o J. Kempster and Sons, 2 & 4. Alliton Road, Tumbridge Wells, Kent TM, 278, Twb 01092 522131.

ALBERT - Harold Albert,
Author and famed Royal
Biographer under the name
of Mrs. Helem Catheart. Died
20th October 1977 at vine
House Essidential Home,
Midburst, Funeah Service at
Chichester Cremstodium on
Priday 31sr October 1977 at
1100pn Flowens if desired or
domations to The Imperial
Cancer Research Fund clo L.
F. Lintott & Son, North
Street, Midburst, West
Sussex, GU27 9DG. Tel:
O1720 813264.

COX - Raigh CRE pesscripty
on October 22nd, 1997 and
On October 22nd, 1997 and
Contracts and much loved
lavaer and grandfather.
Berrister at Law, Lincoln's
Inn. Retired as Director of
Contracts, Ministry of
Contracts, Ministry of
Reform and Phyllis Court
Clabs and healy President of
Reading Liberals. Private
cremation followed by
Tanksgiving Service at Br
Church, near Henley,
Wednesday October 29th at
12 noon, Family flowers
only, Donations if wished to
Sus Ryder Home, Nettlebed.

ENEMBER - Resement Mary (née Norbury), peacefully on October 13th 1997, in her 87th year. Gene to laugh with Mickey and F.P. Lovingly remembered by her daughter, Teresa, by her mandchildren, Mark, Anits and Chie and by hendy and triands. She touched mary live and will be mired. For jervice or flowers by or flowers by

BRYFRS - Brigadier E.H.C.
(DICK) C.S.E. on October
22-al 1997, presidily star
a long libror aged 26 years.
Beloved hashand of both
Mariorie for over 30 years
and the last Fruits Francis
Service at All Saints Church.
Increase. Estimic on Friday
October 31st at 2.15pm
followed by cremation at
Bury St. Edmunds
Crematorium (Risby) at
145pm. ramiy flower and
please but donations if
desired to the Serfolk
beach of the L.C.
be sent c/o Eackhams
Francis Service, Stanley
Load, Diss, Rotfolk, 1922
32H.

De St. CROIX - Lyde (née Solovioff Paus Fumar). Peacefully on 23rd October at St. Thomas' Nursing House, Besingstein. Desaity beloved wife of John, mother of Roderick and John Anthony, grandmother of Oliver. Private cremation. Memorial Mass at the Church of our Lady of Grace and St. Edward, Chiawick on Monday 10th November at 12.30 pm. Denations if desired to the Altheimers Disease Society of Stowells Funeral Service, Worting Road, Basingstohe, Hants,

DRAKE - Edith aged 90 years of Green Lana, Churchdovn, Churchster, passed away on the 23rd October. Dearly loved wife of Doctor Deales. Engothes of SC & BS Cocks tel: 01452 617892.

BLEGIT - Marjorie Ruth died peacefully in has sheep on October 23nd 1997 aged 87. Darling Ma of Philippe and son-in-law David, and beloved Gam of Aschew and longthen and Geset Gam of Roule, Amy, Stanley and Hisa. The Inneral service will take place on October 29th at 230pm at Headen Crimatorhim, Holders Hill Road, Mill Hill, London NW7. Family flowers only. Doustions if wished to the ENLI clo Kelly of Mill Hill, NW7 1NA. Tel. O181 346 0174.

rothest - Daphne sucidenty and peacefully at her home on Mounday 20th October, 1997. Loring wife of Archie and mother of The Penton. Following pulvate cremention a Thanksgiving Service will be held at 3t Mary's Church, Bermham Marinet on Monday 3rd November at 12 noon. Femily flowers only, donations if desired for British Esd Cross of John Lincoln FID 40 Greevegate, Hunstanton, Norfolk. GESON - On 22nd October 1997, Constance, whice of Joseph, mother of Felicity, Stephen and Andrew. Funeral service and interment on Monday, October 27th at 11.00am at Barbon Church.

HAWKE - Julia Georgette.
Histing presumed drowned
in a tragic accident in the
Galapagos Islands on
October 12th. Beloved
youngest daughter of
Georgette and the late Theo
Hawke and much loved
sixter of Sarah, Cathesha,
Micola, Edward and Vancest,
Memorial Service at S.
Helmorial Service at S.
Helm's Church, Terporisy,
Cheshire 2.30pm on
Stourday November 15th.

HEMARS - Pencefully on October 21st Margaret Estelle née Melsome. Punemi 11am November 5th at Salisbury Cressatorium. No flower. Donations to St Nicholas Church.

pendir - John Nigel St. George peacefully in his steep on October 21st aged 84. Beloved husband of Viola. Funeral Milland Church, 2m Pricky Ortober 31st. No flowers please. Domations if desired to the 25FB c/o Puneral Services PetersHeld Limited, 19 The Square, PetersHeld, Hampshire. Tel: 01730 267711.

LAMBERT - Robert Guy Wilson C.B.R. Aged 76 on 4th October in Hinsledeln, Switzwiand Beloved father of Susan, Tom and Anna. Dunstions if desired to The Little Way Association. Sacred Heart House, 119 Cedux Boad, London SW4

List - Cheng Rim, On 23rd October 1997 at Edenhall Marie Curie Centre Dearly lowed wife and mother of William Tumball and their sons Alex and Jonathan. MARSON - Prof. Philip CER died on 5th October in Exactlin after a short finess. Philip devoted his working life to the development of Tropical medicina. His passing is a trunsendous loss and deeply fair by an his family and friends. He leaves behind his second wife Maria, his children Andrew and Vanessa, gazudchildren and sister in America.

Military Road, Cantestury.

RMODES - Professor Rene
George, Dept. of Engineering
University of Warwick died
suddenly at home on 21st
October aged 81. Dear
husband of Mary, loving
inther of Penny, Chris and
Jeremy, grandfather of
Samuel, Tomas and Manthey.
Cremation Onidey Wood on
Wadnesday 29th October at
2.30pm. Fennily flowers only.
Donations for Aspire (Spinal
Lajuries) may be sent to
John Taylor Funenil Service,
9 St. Johns, Warwick CV34
480E.

RICHARDSON - Norman C.B.K. PRICHARDSON - Norman, G.B.E., Ducham City, tied peacafully on October 23mi, devoted husband of Penny, Service Ducham Cathedral on Wednasday, October 29th at 2pm, followed by garatt cremations. We flowers by request, donations if so desired to St Cathberts Hospice, Ducham City.

no more than pop fluff.

gracefully above her chosen milieu.

Hospice, Junious Chy.

STEPHEN - Summish Alice
(Zemush) - Missing believed
drowned in the Galapseed
Islands on Sunday 12th
October 1997. Dearly loved
daughter of Sandy and Suc,
sjohr of Gasham and the late
Sacin, sister-fo-law of Trix
and aunt of Junion. From
and Melanis. A Tambagirbe
Services for her life will be
held in the Salicon Pusish
Church at 11.30 am on
Saturday 25th Rovember.

Marche Commandos (30AII)
on 23rd October pencefully
in Caminchary after a lone
ilmess. Much loved father of
judy, jounifier and Charles.
Service of Thoulsgiving in
The Crypt of Canterbury
Cathedral at 2.30pm on
Thursday 30th October.
Family flowers only.
Jountloss if desined to the
Pilgrims Hospice clo C.W.
Lyons & Son Undertahens, 70
Military Road, Canterbury.
RMODES - Professor Rese

Stillie - Arnold Bertrain Kingsley (Bill). Paccefully on October 24th. Romanly of Rewton Tony, Wilshire. Scioved husband of the late Magnet and laving father of Colin, Alison, Joanna and Mark.

Mark.

WATES - Joy, widow of Allan, and very much loved by all her family, passed quietty away on Tuesday, 21st October, 1997, et at 12.30 pm on Wednesday, 25th October, 1997, et & John the Baptist, Bohin Hood Lane, Kingston Yale, SWILE, Family Howers only please, but donstions in her memory may be made to the NSPCC, c'o Ashton Funeral Services, 140 Alaxanára Boad, London SW19 7712.

MEMORIAL SERVICES PHRLIPS Peter. Following cremation in Singapore a Hamorial Service will be held at Durisigh Church, Durisigh, Near Endgweter, Someriet at noon on Treasing 4th November 1997, No Rowers, Donations if-desired to Macmillan Center Relief, Anchor Rome, 15-19 Editor Street, London 583 372. Empirises 01500 852272.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

VON NGTESICZEV - MarieLouise Von Rotesiczky C24
October 1906 - 10 yane
1996). There will be a
ceremony to deposit the
funesary um of Miss MarieLouise Von Motesiczky in
the Motesiczky family tomb
at the Doeblinger Friedland,
Hartickerstrasse 65, at
10.30am on Teseday 28th
October 1997, Marie-Louise
will be laid to rest beside her
mother and father, and here
brother Karl. On behalf of
the family a memorial
speech will be delivered by
Mr Richard Earplus of
Houston, Texas, and there
will be an address by Dr.
Gerbert Frodi, Director of
the Austrian Gellevy.
Belvedere. Marie-Louise is
remembered with joy in the
messary of 20 who knew her.
She survives in her art.

IN MEMORIAM --PRIVATE

ARMITAGE – Römund Brian.
Stöped the surity bonds of
earth 26th October 1996,
With love abusys Ritabeth,
Jane, Rick, Jeremy and
gandchildren Jack, Ohvia,
Rhitanan, Buisy, Charles
and Samnel Brian.

BARTTELOT - In leving CLARK - Month CR. Clark BSc ARICS, 1960-1995, Out

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IN MEMORIAM --PRIVATE

MAHAFFY - In over loving memory of my darling Victoria who died on 1st April 1995. It would have

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USE WILL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH We do. Kidney research ives lives. So do legacies CONTRACTOR

3 Archars Court, Students tione 01480 454626 and Charly Ha. 20200

OBITUARIES

accused

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Par - Petrander

 $(x_{i,j})$

Maurice Griffiths, GM. yacht designer, author and editor of Yachting Monthly, 1927-67, died on October 11 aged 95. He was born on

May 22, 1902,

aurice Griffiths did more than anyone else to make yachting accessible in the United Kingdom. The key to the riddle of the man lies in the sands which surrounded his island thome in West Mersea, Essex. For it was the mudbanks and shallow channels of the Thames Estuary that inspired him to write books, to design shoal water yachts and to bring Yachting Monthly out of a rut of deference to the Royal Yacht Squadron set, filling its pages instead with the delights of mending leaky planks or navigating nameless creeks.

He wrote 20 books and hundreds of articles in the pages of Yachting Monthly, which he edited for 40 years, CANTER PROPERTY. and from his designs more than 2,000 yachts have been launched. He also owned and sailed 22 different yachts himself.

Maurice Griffiths's family moved to East Anglia in 1903. when his father, Walter, took a job as the East of England rep for a glove manufacturer, and moved his wife, Lens, and their two boys. Leslie and Maurice, from South London to Ipswich. They lived opposite the railway line, and it was there that the young MG, as he was always known, acquired his first love: of trains.

When he left Queen Elizabeth's School, he began work with an estate agent, but in his sare time wrote articles on Times. trains for the East Anglian

The train tracks soon took him down to the Ipswich docks, where he discovered boating. He established a small yacht brokerage, and in the course of buying and selling boats he learnt a lot about sailing and boat-building. In 1925 he published a little book called Yachtingon a Small Income which, by a wry twist of fortune, sold. well on railway station platforms.

Griffiths's mother found that her husband had run up huge debts, and the family home had to be sold to _be the right man to edit a new meet them. Leng and Leslie went to the Midlands to stay with relatives; the brokerage petered out, and Griffiths decided to try his hick selling. yachting articles as a freelance

MAURICE GRIFFITHS

ه کدامن (الممل

ACHTING MONTHLY



in London. He struggled for months and virtually starved; his constitution never fully recovered.

Salvation came in the form * of George Bittles, the publish-When his father died sud- er of Yachting Monthly. A commuter, he had bought Griffiths's book at his local station, and believed he would .magazine, Yacht Sales and Charters - basically a yacht brokerage with its own magazine.

> Griffiths made such a success of this that established.

brokers pledged to stop advertising in Yachting Monthly if the magazine continued. It did not, but Griffiths had proved himself and was given the editor's chair of Yachting Monthly - a considerable achievement for someone, in the words of one observer, whose, best contact was the

Among the people Griffiths had met while visiting the offices of yachting magazines trying to sell his wares was Dukie Kennard, who became

Heybridge

lock-keeper at

Basin".

his first wife. She, too, wrote for the yachting press, under the byline "Peter Gerard". They married in 1927 but were divorced in 1934. He met his second wife,

Marjorie, known as "Coppie" from her maiden name of Copson, in December 1944 at was then based as a lieutenant-commander in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was awarded the George Medal for bravery in recognition of his work trawling for mines in the North Sea and for



deactivating parachute mines dropped on the London docks during the Blitz, as well as for his command of a group of former ships lifeboats, his greatest contribution to giving divers clearing the Suez Canal of the same menace.

Later in the war he was responsible for the design and fitting of the explosive charges which sank 77 condemned ships off the coast of Normandy, where they formed the bulwarks of the Mulberry Harbour used during D-Day and after, in 1944. The meticulous attention to detail that enabled him to disarm mines was that of the man who once ensured that there was a space under the coal stove of a yacht in which to stow his on-board slippers, so that they would stay warm.

After the war, the invention of waterproof plywood and fibreglass enabled Griffiths's modest designs to be massproduced. Two successes were Waterwitch 30. But popular though his boats were, he had no illusions about their aesthetic appeal: "If you ever see a barrel or a box with rudder and sails, it'll be one of my designs," he once said.

ROGER WYBOT

Roger-Paul Warin. known as Roger Wybot, head of French counterintelligence for the Fourth Republic, died in Paris on

September 26 aged 84. He was born there on October 13, 1912.

ROGER WYBOT was called the French Edgar Hoover", because of his single-minded hunt for Soviet agents, a task far more difficult in postwar France — with its sizeable and legal Communist Party than it was across the Atlantic. Wybot also provoked something of the fear many Americans felt when they learnt that Hoover was investigating them. He kept files on the private fives of practically all prominent Fourth Republic politicians, including François Mitterrand.

He was at the heart of the political turmoil surrounding the numerous scandals of the teetering, 14-year Fourth Republic, which died with General de Gaulle's return to power in 1958. His career as head of the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (DST) came to an end abruptly in that year when, it was said General de Gaulle discovered a listening device in his apartment at the Hotel Laperouse. The incoming French President had Wybot shunted to senior, but less sensitive, posts within the French police.

Wybot was an artillery officer who had fought up until the 1940 Armistice, when the Free French infiltrated him into the Vichy government's "anti-nationalist activities" branch -- specially set up to track down Gaullists, Communists and freemasons. He was arrested by Vichy police in Marseilles in 1941, but escaped and made his way to London, where he became head of counter-espionage in the Gaullist secret service. It was at this time that he the pseudonym adopted Wybot.

He fell out with de Gaulle in 1942 and joined a Free French unit that fought in Libya, Tunisia and Italy, later taking part in the Allied invasion of the South of France in 1944. He was again made head of counter-espionage in General de Gaulle's first postwar government. He packed the new

MILESTONES

rewarded for his faith. After

some years at sea, he found

work in a radio repair shop,

range to include everything

from irons to dishwashers

and waste-disposal systems

always said that he "didn't

want to be one of those goons who ends up with £4 million

Obituary published on October 22.

Sir Gilbert Longden, MBE, MP for South West

Herts. 1950-74, died on

on April 16, 1902.

Enoch

October 16. He was born

Gilbert Longden typified the

best of the old Tory party, which owed so much to the

adoption of Beveridge and

full employment in the years

immediately after the end of

the Second World War.

Longden was an original

member of the One Nation

Heath, Iain Macleod, Angus

Maude, Reginald Maudling

and Sir John Rodgers.

which included

Powell, Edward

and hasn't lived".

service with wartime comrades and set about hunting down Vichy militia chiefs and collaborators. He questioned Rene Hardy, a leading Resistance figure suspected of having betrayed Jean Moulin, head of the Resistance, to Klaus Barbie of the Gestapo in Lyons. The case against Hardy was never proved. He did, however, arrest the millionaire scrap dealer Joseph Joanovici, who was a leading collaborator.

Wybot played a central role in resolving or calming a number of scandals involving France's war in Indo-China, notably the so-called "Affaire des Généraux" in 1950, when a report on the military situation by the Indo-China Com-mander-in-Chief, General Georges Revers, found its way into the hands of Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh rebels. Revers was sacked.

Wybot was in charge of the fight, at home, against the Algerian Front de Libération Nationale, but he was mainly preoccupied with uncovering Soviet agents in the military, Nato and the nuclear industry. He forged what was called an "entente cordiale" with

He always denied that he had placed microphones in de Gaulle's apartment, and successfully sued a newspaper that claimed that this had been the reason for de Gaulie 'kicking him upstairs".

He was named inspecteur Général of the Police and of the Sureté Nationale. He occupied the same job under different titles until 1973. His biography, written by a journalist friend, Roger Wybot et la bataille pour la DST, was a 1975 justification of his career but gave away few secrets. He remained a figure of some mystery to the end. In his later years in the police he became adept at acupuncture, wrote a standard book on the subject and was known to treat his colleagues at the Interior Ministry. He was also an expert on hypnotism and spiritualism.

He wrote several plays, one of them. Antigone, was in the classical vein and another was performed on the radio by actors of the Comedie Francaise. He received some of the highest distinctions of the Republic, notably the order of Compagnon de la Libération.

CAPTAIN QUENTIN



Captain Quentin Smyth VC, died on October 21 aged 81. He was born in Natal on August 6, 1916.

OUENTIN SMYTHE won his VC as a sergeant in the 1st Natal Carabineers in the 1st South African Brigade during the Eighth Army's disastrous defeat at Rommel's hands during the Battle of Gazala in June 1942.

The Eighth Army, com-manded by Neil Ritchie, who had defeated Rommel and driven him out of Cyrenaica in the autumn of 1941, had lost two divisions and an armoured brigade which were sent to reinforce Malaya and Burma after the Japanese surged into South-East Asia at

TRUSTEE ACTS

the beginning of 1942. Rommel seized his opportunity to counterattack, and drove the weakened Eighth Army back to the Gazzla line covering Tobruk.

The northern half of the Eighth Army's line was held by infantry divisions using fortified brigade "boxes". while the southern half was the preserve of the armoured divisions. The 1st South African Brigade was holding the prominent Alem Hamza box, jutting out into the Axis line some ten miles inland from the coast.

Ritchie's mind was set on launching a new offensive, and he was caught off-balance by Rommel, who struck first with the epic drive by his Afrika Korps round the open

southern flank into the Eighth Army's rear, while he fought to clear a supply route to his panzer divisions, which were almost out of fuel.

On June 3, the 1st South African Brigade carried out what the British official history describes as a very well handled raid on the Italian Trento Division, which was trying to hold open Rommel's precarious new supply route. was during this raid that Smythe won his VC. Casualties had been heavy

and, although wounded in the forehead and suffering from loss of blood, Smythe took command of his platoon when it lost its officer during an attack on an enemy strong-point. Singlehanded, he destroyed an enemy machinegun post, taking the surviving crew prisoner. Soon afterwards he did the same to an anti-tank-gun crew, enabling him to consolidate his position until he was ordered to withdraw. But no amount of South

African gallantry could re-verse the effect of the British armour's defeats in the Cauldron and at Knights bridge. The Eighth Army fell back to El Alamein, where the South Africans played a crucial role in stopping Rommel for good.

Quentin George Murray Smythe was the son of Edric Smythe and the grandson of the Hon Charles Smythe, the first Administrator of Natal. After being educated at Eastcourt School, he served with the 1st Natal Carabineers in East Africa against the Italians before the Western Desert campaign.

After the war he joined the South African Department of Defence, returning to farming after his retirement. He was awarded the freedom of Durban in recognition of his gallantry.

ried: first, in 1945, to Dale Griffiths, by whom he had three sons and a daughter; this marriage was dissolved in 1970 and later that year he married Margaret Joan Shatwell, who died in 1980. He is survived by his third wife, Patricia, whom he married



designs and tips on converting

the sport wide appeal proba-

bly came with the publication

of his book of vignettes - The Magic of the Swatchways -

giving accounts of humble

cruises in small yachts from

Lowestoff to Dover and across

the North Sea to The

Netherlands and Belgium.

Published in 1932, it has been

translated into Dutch and

Polish, and gone through many editions. A biography of

Griffiths. The Magician of the Swatchways by Dick Durham,

Maurice Griffiths's second

wife "Coppie", died in Febru-

ary. There were no children of

was published in 1992.

either marriage.

Roberto C. Goizneta, chief executive of Coca-Cola, died on October 18. He was born on Navember 18, 1931.

Roberto Goizueta devoted almost all of his 43-year career to the manufacture and sale of Coca-Cola, and headed the company for 16 years. Born in Cuba, he was educated at Yale, where he read chemical engineering. After working briefly for the family business in Cuba, he joined the Coca-Cola Company in Havana in 1954. In the aftermath of the Castro revolution, he settled in the US in 1961, arriving in Miami with \$40 in cash and 100 Coca-Cola shares (which would now be worth some \$3 million). After rising through the ranks he was appointed chief executive in 981, and set about reviving a then rather moribund company. Diet Coke, introduced in 1982, was a great success. In 1985, however, Goizueta's passion for innovation got the better of him, prompting one of the most spectacular miscalculations in the history of marketing. In response to increased competition from the sweeter Pepsi, he tinkered with the sacred Coke formula and intro-"New Coke". The duced public loathed it, and there was a huge drop in sales before the original recipe was reintroduced as "Classic Coke" after only three months. Goizueta was also a

Kenneth Wood, inventor of the Kenwood Chef electric mixer, died on October 19. He was born on October 4, 1916.

notable philanthropist.

October 20.

Obituary published on

type of his Kenwood Chef Longden, a bachelor, was electric mixer drew raised the only one of the group not evebrows from bankers and to win office, but remained an articulate backbencher until the age of 72 when he other backers when he tried to finance its production in 1948. Potential suppliers retired at the first of the two general elections of 1974. He were no more impressed, demanding money upfront is perhaps best remembered before they handed over for his comment at Prime Minister's Questions after parts. But Wood went ahead regardless, and was richly Macmillan's botched reshuf-

and then built up a radio "May I take this opportunity business of his own. His first of congratulating the Prime Minister on having kept his venture into kitchen applihead while all around were ances came after the war. losing theirs." when he set up a company Obituary published on with a partner to manufac October 22. ture toasters. The Chef followed, and was enthusiastically snapped up after a Harold French, actor and theatre director, died demonstration at Harrods. Kenwood was soon able to on October 19. He was buy up other companies in the field, and expanded its born on April 23, 1900.

fle of 1962, which became

known as the "Night of the

Long Knives". Longden said:

Wood was a millionaire at 42. He founded the Forest Mere Health Farm at Liphook, and developed a golf club near his home. He had



Born in London of Irish par-

ents, Harold French made

his first stage appearance in 1912 in one of Granville Barker's famous Shakespeare revivals. The Winter's Tale. But French's niche in the history of 20th-century theatre is for his work as a director, notably for making a hit of French Without Tears, Terence Rattigan's first play, which in rehearsal had looked like being a disaster. During the 1920s and early 1930s, French had a variety of light acting roles, but realised that this was not his metier. His ability to get on with the varied temperaments found in the theatrical world, however, made him a most sympathetic director, and he continued working for the stage into the 1970s. Among the films he directed were Jeannie (1941); Secret Mission (1942); Dodie Smith's Dear Octopus (1943), probably his best, and Rob Roy the Highland Rogue (1953).

Obituary published

October 24.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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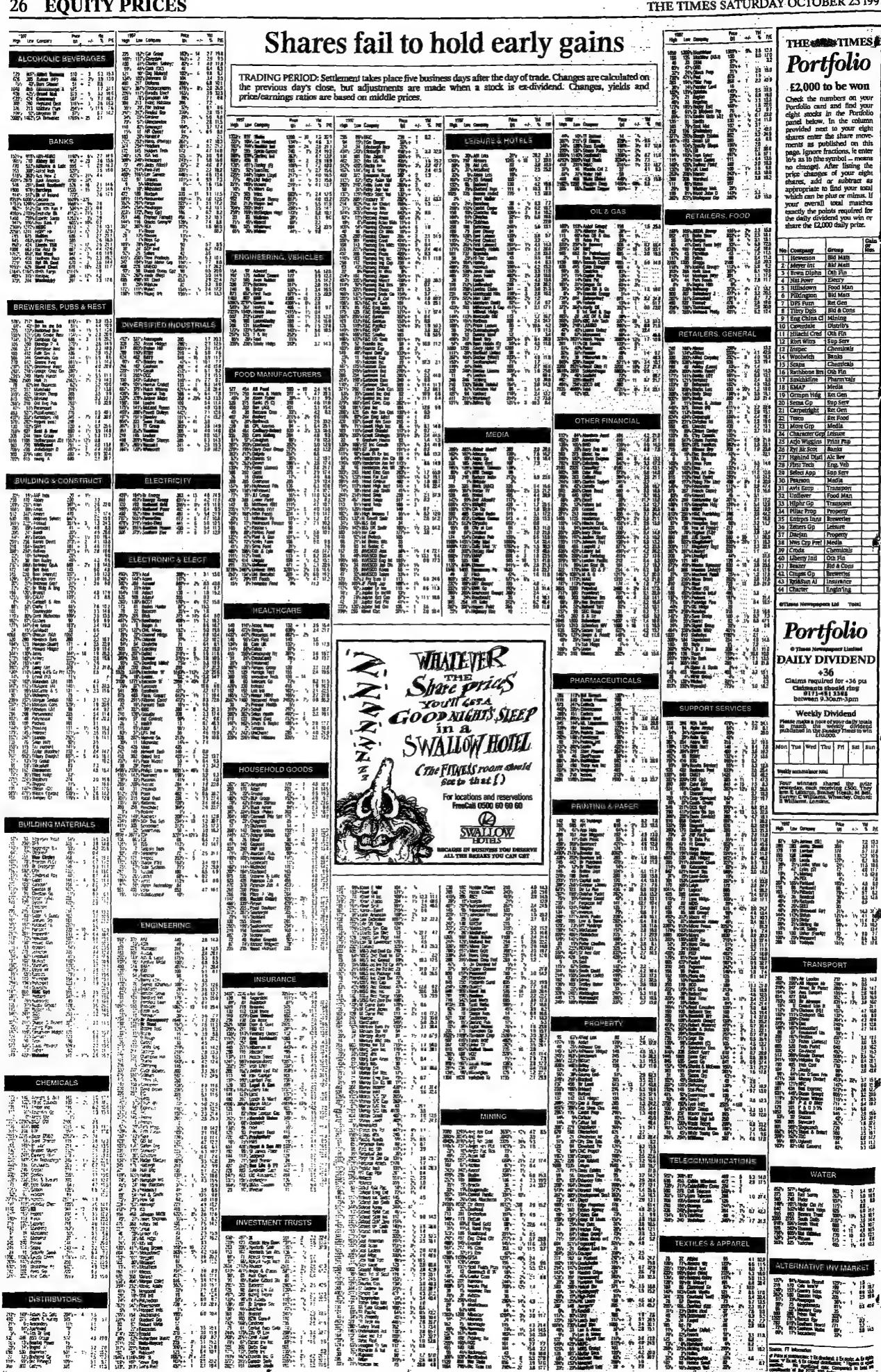
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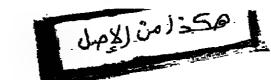
PUBLIC NOTICES

He was three times mar-

Kenneth Wood developed and gave his name to one of the favourite fixtures in the postwar kitchen. The proto-



legation haud and mularitie





HOT SEAT 30 Man of glass with a clear strategy

BUSINESS

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

Recovery short-lived as markets fail to shake off jitters

Hong Kong after-shock rolls on

BY JANET BUSH **ECONOMICS EDITOR**

SHARE prices gyrated wildly yesterday in London and New York as world stock markets continued to be buffeted by the after-shocks of Hong Kong's record fall in share prices on Thursday despite a rebound in the Hang Seng index.

The FTSE 100 index initially surged by 111 points and Wall Street seemed destined to follow, with the Dow Jones industrial average rebounding by more than 91 points at

denly started to retreat, drag-ging European markets off their highs. At midsession, the Dow was quoted 116.16 points

The FTSE 100 ended down 21.3 points at 4,970.2, representing a loss over the course of the week of 300 points, or six

Bob Semple, strategist at NatWest, said: "Three hundred points down looks like a fair comment on the week. Asia continues to be a source of tension. We've had a dead cat bounce in Hong Kong and people seem a bit happier about whether the peg will

hold, but worries over Hong away that quickly."

European stock markets had taken comfort as traders woke up to the news that the Hong Kong market had risen nearly 7 per cent, recovering much of the 10 per cent fall of the previous session.

The Hang Seng closed 718.04 points higher at 11,144.34, its second-largest points gain ever. On Thursday recorded its largest points fail of 1.211.47. But the recovery was tempo

rary. Wall Street traders cited continuing fitters about the turmoil in Asian markets asspeech on the economic outlook by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal the Joint Economic Committee

of Congress. There was some relief in Hong Kong that interest rates, jacked up on Thursday to deter speculation against the Hong Kong dollar, settled back to more normal levels. Overnight money, which jumped to quotes as high as 300 per cent at the height of Thursday's crisis, came back down to around 10 per cent. There was bargain-hunting

on the stock market, largely

advantage of the cheap prices to buy back their own shares. Some shareholders took the opportunity of increasing holdings of listed companies.

Despite the rebound yesterday, the Hang Seng still stands 18 per cent lower over the week, and 33 per cent down from its record closing high in August. Tung Chee-hwa, Hong

Kong's chief executive, again expressed confidence that the authorities would be able to beat off speculative attacks against the Hong Kong dollar, egged for 14 years to the US

The market has fallen but at certain levels it becomes a

however. China National Aviation Co Ltd said that it is postponing an initial public offering of its shares, saying that it would go ahead when the Hong Kong market had recovered some stability.

While Hong Kong recovered some of its poise, other Asian markets continued to come under pressure. Thailand's stock market lost more than 3 per cent ahead of the appointment of its third finance minister in ten months.

which this week hit a record low, held steady after the announcement that Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Thailand's Prime Minister, had appointed Kosit Panpiemras, executive director of Bangkok Bank. as finance minister.

In Europe, Frankfurt stocks closed nearly 2 per cent high-er, but this was before the opening on Wall Street and can share values. In afterhours German trading, stocks were quoted only just in positive territory. In Paris, stocks lost healthy initial gains and closed down a fraction.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

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London close 6315,65 (6323,25)

Liberty set for family challenge

BY ADAM JONES

THE matriarch of the family that founded Liberty, the retailer famed for its floral designs, has called an extraordinary meeting to impose

board changes. Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty. whose late husband. Arthur. was Liberty chairman for 29 years, owns about 13 per cent of the company. The Stewart-Liberty family owns about 27 per cent but is no longer

represented on the board. Oliver Stewart-Liberty, who with his brother Richard was the last Liberty executive from the family, refused to com-ment on the move last night.

There was speculation last night that the retailer may have received a takeover approach that was not put to shareholders.

Tempus, page 31

Tecs at centre of allegations of fraud and irregularities

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

TRAINING and Enterprise Councils, which have an annual state-funded budget of £1.25 billion, are at the ceritre of a gations of fraud and misman-

gement, it emerged yesterday. At least 20 cases of alleged fraud by firms under contract. to Tecs in England and Wales and their equivalents in Scot-land are being investigated by the Government Dozens of Tecs are believed to be involved. One training provider is being investigated by police.

Kim Howells, Education and Employment Minister, yester-

Glaxo chief challenge over costs

BY PAUL DURMAN

POLICITIANS would be misguided to squeeze the profits of the pharmaceutical companies in an attempt to reduce healthcare costs, Sir Richard Sykes, chairman and chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, suggested vesterday. Sir Richard challenged the

presumption that the pharmaceutical industry is highly profitable and presents an opportunity for easy public expenditure savings. He said new drugs could can healthcare costs by reducing the length of time patients remain in hospital. Medicines represent the best value and the greatest efficiency there is in healthcare," he told a conference in London.

He also ruled out the need for further mega-mergers in the industry. Many commen-tators believe the fragmented industry will continue to consolidate through deals such as Glaxo's merger with Well-come, and the Sandoz-Ciba merger that created Novartis. Sir Richard attacked policy-

makers' attempts to restrict healthcare spending to a given percentage of national output. Society should want to spend more on healthcare," he said. "Healthcare is a desirable

central England, could be closed and its duties absorbed by neighbouring Tecs.

An investigation by the De-

partment for Education and Employment (DfEE) has identified "serious concerns" about the internal audit within the council. If Centec is closed it become only the second Tec to be shut. The other, South Thames, fell into bankruptcy.

Tecs, which arrange courses through commercial training providers, have been criticised after a string of controversial mis-payments and traud investigations. Numerous cases have been reported of payments: being made for training students who did not exist or for training that was never given to students who did exist.

Yesterday Michael Bichard, Permanent Secretary at the DIEE, wrote to the chairmen of all Tees in England and Wates to set out the Government's deep concern about errors and irregular payments". He wrote: I wish to do everything possible to reverse what appears to be a fall in standards of financial control."

Mr Howells promised "zero tolerance" of payment errors and other irregularities in dealings with companies that provide training services. Irregular payments, which are poor administration and mistaken payments rather than fraud, are this year expected to double to more than £17 million. The fraud investigations could reveal additional losses. of several million pounds.

Mr Howells said: "The provision of good quality training lies at the heart of our commitment to lifelong learning and Tecs play a vital role in delivering that commitment. It is all the more important therefore that we have 100 per cent confidence that public money is being spent properly and effectively."

A spokeswoman for the Tec National Council said: "We have given ministers our assur-ance that we will work with them to ensure tight financial controls are kept." She said irregular payments had fallen in the six years since direct financial control was removed from the Government.

Commentary, page 29



Sunseeker powers towards record year

SUNSEEKER International, the Poole based builder of luxury powerboats, is streaking towards a record financial year and will next week tackle the lucrative American maron Thursday. Robert Braith-

says that the luxury powerboat market is dominated by the big American players but

ket on its home territory at the Fort Lauderdale boat show. The show opens in Florida its production, one third of it increase of 19 per cent on the

to the American market. Sunseeker achieved sales of £42 million in the six months to October, and has sufficient orders in hand to reach its

previous year. At this level of sales pre-tax

profits would reach £4 million, a 5 per cent increase.

Sunseeker says it had a suc-

since sold 44 of its Camargue 44 mid-sized family cruiser at £200,000 each.

Mr Braithwalte expects to maintain production at about 260 craft annually.

Staples issues £1m | Hambro choice at writ over sacking

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN STAPLES, the ousted chief executive of United Utilities, served a £1 million writ on. the company yesterday, alleging that he was forced to resign in a showdown with Sir Desmond Pitcher, the chairman. He has also begun proceed-ings for an industrial tribunal hearing.
The writ said that Mr

Staples was threatened with dismissal without any warn-ing. "At a meeting attended by ... Sir Desmond Pitcher and Mr Howard Jacobs. 2 partner with the solicitors Slaughter and May, the plaintiff was told he could either resign or be dismissed with immediate effect," it said. Mr Staples is demanding

two years' salary plus other emoluments, which will top £1

million. In the writ he lists numerous benefits associated with his £307,500-a-year job at the multi-utility, including membership of an executive bonus scheme and two share option programmes, the pension scheme, a company BMW and home phone charges. Mr Staples, who was on a rolling two-year contract, had worked there for just over

The sacking of Mr Staples triggered unrest from institutional investors, who demanded that Sir Desmond should step down. Succession plans for the management of United Utilities are due to be unveiled in the next few weeks.

A spokesman for the company said: "We will vigorously defend the actions."

I&S questioned

By Paul Durman

THE new board of Ivory & Sime Enterprise Capital, the investment trust that has ap-pointed JO Hambro to handle its winding up, was yesterday accused of allowing a director only four hours to seek shareholder support for alternative

The row has prompted disquiet at one leading institutional investor, which described JO Hambro's appointment as "rather pre-ormanager said that Hew Balfour was acting conscientious-ly as an independent director in attempting to listen to shareholders' views.

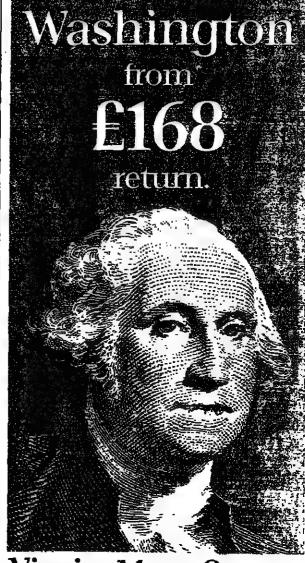
Mr Balfour resigned his directorship of the trust on Thursday in protest at the way in which the appointment of JO Hambro was rushed through, without consider-ation of alternative plans. Mr Balfour was the only one of the trust's four previous directors to survive a boardroom assault mounted by Colin McLean's Scottish Value

Trust, which owns 27 per cent

of Enterprise Capital. Enterprise Capital replaced
Mr Balfour with James Hambro, chairman of JO Hambro, simultaneously appointing the firm as manager in place of

Ivory & Sime.

Mr Balfour said yesterday that he had asked for two weeks grace to seek shareholder views. He was given only a day, and that had been cut to an "absurd" four hours because of another meeting he



AWEEK IN THE CITY

Overnight on Wednesday, the Hang Seng tumbled 1,211 points to 10.426 — a sharper fall even than in

tered, and Cable & Wireless - were

ernment over economic and monetary union (EMU) was the third rerun of October 1987. Reports that the Government was moving towards an early decision to join EMU puffed-up dealers somewhat deflated. Word that Britain was now unlikely to join a single currency ment did nothing for shares. Tony

Blair even endured one or two catcalls during a visit to the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe). Officials at Liffe insisted they heard nothing

All this left the latest accountancy mega-merger rather in the cold. KPMG announced plans to tie the knot with Ernst & Young, creating the world's largest professional services firm, with fees of Ell.25 billion. Two former executives of Landhurst Leasing were jailed for taking kickbacks. Prudential Corporation was rebuked over mis-selling of pensions, and RJB Mining saw its shares crash to a record low. It was the sort of week in which one should

Virgin *MegaSavers*. For world beating offers call by 31st October on 01293 747 245. Or contact your local travel agent.

virgin atlantic Book heine 3 Oct. 1997 Did setum for mael outbound between 1 Nov. - 12 Dec. 1997 ducks and security changes are not included. Launted academies, (b) are

the raging bull market of the 1980s crashing to its knees. This week, outside events again proved the trigger for one of the market's bumpiest rides ever. Sets, the new order-driven share trading system. sprang to life on Monday doing

t was Big Bang and Black. Monday rolled into one. Dealers

who began the week sneering at

the lack of action — Brown Monday.

they dubbed it - were soon sneezing

and shivering, as a severe bout of Hong Kong flu swept the globe. By Red Thursday, stock markets had

numed a whiter shade of pale. Private investors could only look on

Ten years ago, a hurricane was

the unforeseen factor that brought

in dismay.

widening gaps between the bid and offer prices sent the FTSE 100 index see sawing. Screens turned from blue to red and back again, leaving fund managers gasping with exas-peration. The market, down 119 points at one stage, ended the day 60 points lower. The computer confusion set the scene for what was to follow.

everything that it was not supposed to do. Low liquidity and ever-

Overnight on Tuesday, the Hang Seng index in Hong Kong fell 567 points to 12,403, as the territory became locked in a battle with the currency speculators who have wreaked havoc elsewhere in the region Overnight interest rates charged to banks jumped to as high

as 300 per cent, as authorities sought to defend the Hong Kong dollar -pegged for the past 14 years to the US dollar.

1987 - sparking panic in London and New York when markets opened on Thursday. The FTSE 100 numbled 222 points at one stage, slipping below 5,000, while the Dow Jones industrial index dipped nearly 230 points. A suicide in Hong Kong brought chilling echoes of the 1929 Wall Street Crash, although some semblance of calm returned to world markets yesterday. The three UKquoted shares most exposed to Hong. Kong - HSBC, Standard Char-

among the worst affected. HSBC was toppled from its perch as the UK's biggest company by market capitalisation, passing the honour to BP, the oil company.

Conflicting signals from the Gov-

unforeseen factor that fuelled a were played down by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, leaving during the lifetime of this Parlia-

Members fail to claim

MORE than £7 million worth of shares are still unclaimed

after the Bristol & West Building Society takeover. The society taken over by the Bank of Ireland in a £600 million deal this summer, said around 23,000 eligible members had

not yet claimed their entitlement of 250 preference shares each. They failed to meet the share registration deadline of

July 21 but can still claim their shares up to three years after

The takeover meant that cash windfalls paid directly into

the accounts of most of the 11 million building society

members. But 320,000 more members - mortgage holders

and savers with accounts for less than two years — were only

eligible for the 250 preference shares. A Bristol & West spokesman said a total of 27,000 people failed to meet the July

21 deadline. Since then the society had been contacted by

4,000 of them. An overall total of more than £1.2 billion in

windfall payouts is still unclaimed after other recent building society flotations.

Energy Group expands

THE ENERGY GROUP has entered a three-way deal to buy

£7m of B&W shares

the first day of trading:

By RICHARD MILES

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday the introduction of the euro would represent an opportunity rather than a threat for the City of London, even if the UK did not join the first wave of economic and monetary union in 1999.

Mr George said the main impact of the euro on financial activity would be to encourage broader and more liquid markets where they are currently fragmented because they are denominated in differ-

ent European currencies, "The City of London thrives on liquid markets regardless of the currency - and it will thrive on the euro whether the UK is in or out," he said, "I have no doubt whatever that there will be a vigorous euroeuro market in London. come what may.

The reality is that the location of financial activity does not depend on the local currency. It will continue to be carried on wherever it can most conveniently, efficiently and profitably be carried on." Mr George also told delegates at the Royal Institute of International Affairs Conference that he welcomed increasing financial activity in Frank-furt. Paris. Milan or Amsterdam because this would result in increased activity in London. "The City is a major European. not simply a national asset." he said.

Countering criticism that UK financial institutions were unprepared for the introduction of the euro. Mr George said there was growing evidence that banks and insurance companies were now taking the necessary steps to ensure readiness.

The Governor said the banking settlement system that came into operation last spring was being developed to work in the euro. If the UK were to join, the UK sterling system would effectively become a euro system. A parallel system was also under development in case Britain stayed out.



Ferrari plans drive into menswear

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FERRARI, the Italian sports car firm, hopes to capitalise on its success on this year's Formula One racing circuit by launching a men's leisure-wear range at top British department stores.

The range with the Ferrari insignia is being put together by Nice Man Merchandising. part of BMG, which holds the icence for Ferrari merchandise. Nice Man is in talks with a number of department stores, including Selfridges, Harrods and Lillywhites. It

hopes to launch in February. There is already a range of Ferrari clothing being sold to Formula One fans and through catalogues. The new range will be more in the style of Timberland and Gant, Andrew Walton, marketing manager of Nice Man, said. Ferrari is also working on plans to launch a chain of

THE ENERGY GROUP has entered a three-way deat to buy a coal-fired power station in Turkey for £78 million. The Energy Group, through its subsidiary Peabody, has a 25 per cent stake in the purchase. Its partners are Koc, which has a 50 per cent holding, and NRG which as 25 per cent in the Kangal station in central Turkey. Derek Bonham, chairman of The Energy Group, said: "This project is a further step in the realisation of The Energy Group's strategy to develop as an international, integrated energy company." Penna earnings rise PENNA HOLDINGS, the training and recruitment company, reported pre-tax profits of £1.6 million for the six months to September 30, compared with an adjusted £745,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 10.1p a share, compared with 8.5p. The interim dividend rises to 1.2p a share, from 1p. Reported profits for the first half of 1996 included an exceptional charge of £1.4 million against restructuring, which left a pre-tax

OFT pressed for quick action over rogue mortgage lenders

penalties. In particular he highlighted the use of dual interest rates, which punish late-paying borrowers with a higher rate of interest, and rule 78, a calculation for redemption penalties that was originally designed for short. unsecured loans and which has been misused by some

In July Mr Bridgeman threatened to strip lenders and brokers of their consumer credit licences if they continued to exploit vulnerable borrowers with exorbitant interest rates and redemption

NIGEL GRIFFITHS, Minis-

ter for Consumer Affairs, has

urged John Bridgeman, Direc-

tor-General of Fair Trading, to

act swiftly against rogue mort-

gage lenders, as it emerged that the OFT was still taking

legal advice on guidelines it

issued three months ago.

first UK conference for what

Mr Bridgeman promised to review the situation in This week, addressing the

lines would be issued in a few weeks and said that the OFT had written to Mr Griffiths urging him to review the law

are known as sub-prime fie non-high street) lenders. Geoffrey Horton, the Office of Fair Trading's Director of Consumer Affairs, repeated the pledge to stamp out the prac-tices wherever they were found. In his opinion, he said. loans arranged on these terms were legally unenforceable.

OFT was seeking legal advice on whether loans issued before July had to comply with But Mr Griffiths said he

had raised the issue of rule 78 with the OFT in May, July and August and had understood that it would not be used

Mr Griffiths said: "The message I want to convey to the OFT, and anyone else, is that I want to see the abuses sorted out. Any legal advice

RJB to spend £50m on

lifting Australian stake

By our industrial correspondent

However, he added that the . they are seeking should be DFT was seeking legal advice done speedily as the publics with the abuses of lenders who are charging extertionate rates of interest and are forcing people to lose their homes. I await the Director-General's review with interest."

One legal expert expresse urprise at the OFP's delay. Under Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract legislation. passed in 1994, practices such as dual interest rates and rule 78 are open to legal challenge.

Dockers stand firm

NO MORE than three of the 329 dockers involved in the picketing of Mersey Docks and Harbour will accept the £28,000 payoff offered to them yesterday, union officials said. Bobby Morton, one of the shop stewards, said: "We were picketing this morning, and all the people I spoke to said they wouldn't be accepting the offer. This is the flith in a series of final offers, and we'll stay here for the rest of our lives if we I have to." However, Mersey Docks and Harbour insisted: "Tois is the final offer. After today, matters are closed."

EI.4 million against restructuring, which left a pre-tax loss of £655,000.

AH Ball losses continue

SHARES in AH Ball, the building and construction group, fell 2p, to 11 ap, after Sir James Harvie Watt, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the rate of new order intake has been "disappointingly low", despite good volumes of work from the core business and a reduction in overheads. He also told shareholders that margins remain under "severe pressure". Sir James said that the consequence of such trading conditions has been a continuance of losses in the first half of the year that ends in March 1998.

VW refund set at £31m

YOLKSWAGEN, the German auto manufacturer, must pay back DM90.7 million (about £31.2 million) in compensation to end its fight with the European Union over subsidies for an east German factory. The long-running dispute involves Illegal subsidies the carmaker received from the east German state of Saxony to help to finance investments at its plants in Mosel and Chemnitz. The issue was complicated when the commission discovered that Volkswagen was exceeding capacity levels agreed with the commission.

Hitachi Credit higher

HITACHI CREDIT (UK), the finance arm of the Japanese trading giant floated on the British stock market in July. raised pre-tax profits by 47 per cent to £3.2 million in the six months to September 30 on sales up 26 per cent to £35.6 million. Earnings rose 25 per cent to 6.6p a share. A maiden interim dividend of 1.7p will be paid. UBS, the house brokers, forecast a full-year pre-tex profit of £7.5 million. Hitachi Credit said that its main markets are both buoyant and dynamic. The shares rose 3p to 1522p yesterday.

Energy policy review as coal outcry grows

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

policy amid the growing controversy over the future of the coal industry. A paper on energy is to be looked at by the Economic Policy Committee of the Cabinet in a move which could trigger a wholesale review.

News of the paper, which is thought to be up for discussion in the next few weeks, will increase the calls from coal industry supporters for a radical overhaul of energy. The Government

THE Cabinet is to examine energy has been increasingly criticised for RIB MINTING, the troubled UK coal to buy one mine, and stakes in two washing its hands of coal as the industry faces tough negotiations on new contracts with the generators and as environmental commitments fur-

ther the dash for gas. This week shares in RJB, the largest independent coal producer, slumped 25 per cent on fears for the industry's future. A backbench coal pressure group of Labour MPs has been formed as pressure on the Government grows.

mining company.

RJB. whose shares have fallen sharply in London over concern about the prospects for coal mining in Britain, is likely to lift its 12 per cent holding in CIM to nearly 50 per cent to help to fund pit purchases. Yesterday

mining company, is close to spending completed next year.

RJB's stake-building plan will be put £50 million to increase its shareholding in CIM, the Australian open-cast

to CIM shareholders on Thursday, but the UK mining company has an option to buy up to 48.8 per cent of CIM by next June. RJB is currently in the middle of crucial talks with UK electricity generators for new contracts and is thought to be keen to extend its

unusually weak retail sales in

September, put down in part

mourning for Diana, Princess

Separate figures yesterday provided a mixed picture on

rade. Britain's trade deficit

with the rest of the world was

£513 million in August, com-

pared with £450 million in

July. This was much narrow-

However, the deficit of £779

million with non-European

her, which compared with a

shortfall of £359 million in

August, was much wider than

Union countries in Ser

er than expected.

of Wales.

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Growing economy opens door to interest rate rise

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor another tightening of mone-

tary policy.
The case is not clear-cut,

given a number of slightly weaker forward-looking indi-

cators of economic activity

published recently, and also

THE British economy door open to another rise in base rates next month.

Gross domestic product grew I per cent in the third is in the second. However, 3.9 per cent in the third quarter, from 3.5 per cent in liminary figures from the Office for National Statistics.

The next meeting of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee is on November 6 and it is expected to

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Who is the most

'overpaid' chief executive among

Britain's top 100 companies and

who is the most

'underpaid'? For the answers see Business, tomorrow

day's figures that the booming services sector appears to be slowing down a touch. services sector appears to Services, which account for nearly two thirds of the econocent in the third quarter, having increased 1.2 per cent in the previous two. However, economists cautioned that the services figure may have been depressed by

TOURISTRATES

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LEGICAL STATES

All hallows:

Florachi Crefit

By Monday morning many a set of City fingernails will have taken on the manicure modelled by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, when he switched on the new Stock Exchange electronic order book.

With stock markets switched off more. Just two weeks ago PDFM

with stock markets switched off more. Just two weeks ago PDFM for the weekend, investors must endure an agonising stay in limbo land before learning whether the long-awaited crash really is upon us. Chewing nails down to the quick would be one of the more moderate responses

to the phoney calm. Yesterday's erratic market movements created total confusion. On Thursday night, with Hong Kong's Hang Seng having plummeted and the FTSE blazoning its biggest points fall in a decade, the trend seemed clear. But clarity clouded regidly clear. But clarity clouded rapidly as the Hang Seng regained some of its lost ground and the FTSE started heading back up again. By the end of play with the FTSE down 21 points, confisson was the predominant reaction.

the predominant reaction. But there was disappointment, too, in some quarters. At PDFM. the fund manager, Thursday's stock market slump had been greeted with undisguised elation.
The firm's much publicised stance that the stock market is hugely over-valued seemed about to be vindicated. Tony Dye and his colleagues retired to their and his colleagues retired to their beds happy that night Friday morning must have been absolutely ghastly for them as the FISE struggled upwards once

Nail-biting wait for PDFM

هي المالكم

had gathered together its clients at a London conference centre to **COMMENTARY** tell them why the firm was sticking to its controversial by our City Editor investment strategy. There was the dash of mea culpa, now in vogue with Tory politicians but

not Labour spin doctors, and were split as to whether this is almost inescapable in PDFM's case. "In the last couple of years we have falled to meet your crash or mere correction. Ironically, the chances are that if Hong Kong comes into the first category, then New York and London may be helped towards the second by the weight of money that could be transferred expectations by not meeting the objectives you have set us," admitted Paul Meredith, the fund manager's chairman.
Being significantly underweight in equities has been an expensive strategy in the past few years. Tony Dye steadfastly reiterated his belief in value investout of the former colony.

Whether it be crash or correction, once the tumble has halted there will then be value to be found in some of PDFM's stocks, but by no means all.

Taking revenge on the bank manager

n Tuesday the new super-regulator for the City will be formally introduced to its constituents. There has been much speculation over the name to be accorded to this august body, and at last this is to be revealed, together with some of the details as to how Howard · Davies intends it to operate.

For the moment, all but the name must remain in the realm of theory, for the new organisation only leaps into action after the new Banking Act comes into force in the year 2000. This leaves plenty of time for systems to be sorted out and chains of command plotted and given the scope of this super-SIB's remit, the months may all be necessary. But the timescale also brings its own problems, since the existing system of multi-authority regulawhile the new one is knocked into shape. Regulators being a some-what specialist breed, there is a likely shortage of skills to equip

A shortage of willing talent is a potentially limiting factor for the shaping of the Super-SIB board. Many believe this should be weighted in favour of public interest members, but those who already sit on the boards of the existing authorities are firmly out of bounds for the recruiters.

Perhaps the Treasury should be deputing someone to fill an empty seat? Word is that this is unlikely to be the case. After all, regulators sometimes fail to please — just imagine some of those conversations Mrs Liddell, the Economic Secretary, has had with the regulators over their approach to the pensions in-dustry's lackadaisical approach to dealing with the mis-selling deback. Far preferable, from the Government's point of view, to keep at a distance. "Deniability" remains a sound principle from

When it comes to dealing with those it regulates, however, the new authority is keen to press the

which to plot a government

concept of responsibility.

There is apparently some debate as to the implications of bringing high street banks under the new umbrella. Should bank managers be forced to register individually with the new au-

This could be particularly relevant since the power to levy fines or disqualify individuals without recourse to the court is almost certain to be included in Super-SIB's armoury.

Disgruntled customers who may be harbouring a grudge against their local bank manager may see in that a tempting route

Taking Liberty into a new era

he Stewart Liberty family can claim as their heritage one of the best-known brand names in the world. It has, however, been appallingly under-exploited for decades. The family's control over the company stretched well beyond their shareholding and saw Liberty offspring planted in important posts to which they were ill-suited. Brian Myerson and Julian Treger, the South African invest-

ment team who have the same ideas about value investing as PDFM and sometimes appear rather niftier at spotting it, highlighted the languishing attractions of Liberty and their efforts helped to secure board-

room changes. The new team started off well, closing the smaller provincial shops and pulling out of France. But the full potential of the extraordinary Regent Street store, its products and reputation remain untrawled. There is an archive of designs, consigned carelessly and uncatalogued to a warehouse by the former directors, which could be the makings of a new fortune for the group.

The share price has been indicating a lack of faith in the new regime's ability to capitalise on the legacy. They could argue that they need longer to make an impression, although that would not lend off a bidder. If the Stewart Liberty family is anxious to regain influence over the company, outside shareholders have every rea-son to resist. Liberty is a brand with heritage but does not need to step backwards in time to realise its potential.

Learning curve

TRAINING is at the heart of Government strategy but, as Labour suggested in opposition, it does not trust the Training and Enterprise Councils charged to provide it. They are improving from a bad start but there are still too many bureaucratic patsies. Tecs need to be more accountable, but to business rather than Whitehall. The sooner ministers encourage strong Chambers of Commerce, to take over more Tecs, the better.

* Energis deal with MCI gives greater US access

ment, insisting that equities bought at high prices would disappoint, a stance that logic, and experience, suggest will be true over time. But the question for PDFM's clients, and those of other similarly inclined houses such as Gartmore, is how long they would have to wait for the statement in he proven. Although

statement to be proven. Although Mr Dye insisted "it's not a crash

that we need but a return to favour for value", without a crash his funds will still look like

Yesterday evening opinions

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

ENERGIS, the telecommunications arm of National Grid, has signed an agreement with MCI, the US telephone company, which will enable it to expand its service to the US. Under the deal Energis, which plans to float in December, will receive international circuits from MCI between the UK and the US. The British company has had an international telecommunications licence since last December and already has capacity in five submarine cables and a relationship with Sprint, the US

long-distance operator. The new agreement with MCI, currently the subject of a three-way bid battle, means that Energis business customers will have the choice of Sprint or MCI pricing packages to the US. About 20 per cent of Energies international

losers.

business is with the US. When Energis, a specialist in advanced telephony and advanced data services, had to go through BT and Mercury for its US connections, the costs were believed to be about Sp a minute. By potting in its own capacity and linking with US operators, the costs have come down to about ip.
Mike Grabiner, chief execu-

tive of Energis, promised recently that he would be "very aggressive" on price.
The pathlinder prospectus

for Energis will show that the business generated £97 million in revenues last year and is expected to break even this year before interest, tax and depreciation. About 25 per centrof the company is expected to be offered. Analysts expect the float to value the com-

pany at about £1 billion. Talks are continuing on a deal between Energis and Vodafone, one of the UK's four mobile telecommunications groups. ☐ The takeover battle for MCI is turning nasty as GTE and WorldCom, which both trumped BT's agreed bid, traded the first blows (Oliver August writes).

\$30 billion offer as early as next week, analysts said, while BT is believed to have formed a behind-the-scenes alliance with GTE to outflank World-Com. The growing antago-nism between rival bidders was triggered by WorldCom-claims that GTE faced regula-

WorldCom could raise its

tory problems. Andrew Lipman, WorldCom's lawyer. said GTE could not close its deal for a further year while WorldCorn would be done in three months. GTE yesterday strongly rejected these claims. Analysts said there was a

"virtually unanimous expecta-tion" that WorldCom will raise its bid. This could force GTE to consider raising its \$28 billion offer and further increase the value of BT's 20 per cent MCI stake. The bids already make this the biggest takeover in corporate-history. Another factor that could

force WorldCom into raising its bid is the current stock market downturn. Its stock swap offer will drop in value if WorldCom's volatile share price falls any further.

F&C lures executive from rival

By RICHARD MILES BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FOREIGN & COLONIAL the fund management group, has lured a top executive from Credit Suisse Asset Management (CSAM) to succeed James Ogilvy, the

outgoing chief executive.

Robert Jenkins, chief operating officer of CSAM, will join Foreign & Colonial at the end of the year when Mr Ogdvy becomes chairman. Yesierday's announcement

of Mr Jenkins' appointment follows the merger in July of Bayerische Hypobank, its German parent, with Vereinshank to form Continental Europe's second-biggest bank Mr Ogilvy said For-eign & Colonial would develop into the international fund management arm of the combined German bank.

Mackie losses deepen to £5.4m

BY CHRIS AYRES

MACKIE INTERNATIONAL the troubled Belfast engineering company, yesterday re-vealed that it had plunged further into the red during the six months to June 30, with pretax losses rising from £4.1 million to £5.4 million.

In spite of the losses, Mackie also announced the acquisi-tion of Rice & Co. a metal castings business, for £1.1 million. It said the purchase would help to strengthen its order book.

Mackie is still being threatened with legal action by a company claiming to represent shareholders over its suprise statement last year that losses would be nearly £7 million greater than expected. Over two years shares in Mackie have plunged from nearly 400p to 20p.

The shareholders' company, called Esop's Fables, yesterday said that it had put forward its case to the Stock Exchange and the Serious Fraud Office. The SFO yesterday confirmed that it had received a complaint but said it had not launched an investigation.

Mackie said its turnover was up 74 per cent from £4.1 million to £7.1 million, with losses per share deepening from 43.4p to 44.6p. No interim dividend will be paid. Sul Sahota, the company's

recently appointed chief executive, said that Mackie had suffered from cash constraints and a lack of customer confidence. He added: "The measures taken to improve trading performance and cashilow. coupled with the commissioning of the new foundry and the related acquisition, enable the board to look forward to a materially improved performance next year."

Bid prompts takeover talk for insurer

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A MYSTERY buyer emerged with a bid for 10 per cent of National Mutual Holdings, the Australian insurer, igniting speculation of a possible takenver offer worth more than A\$4 billion (£1.7 billion). BZW Australia, the broker, acted for the buyer, amid suggestions that National Australia Bank, the nation's most profitable bank, was behind

the manoeuvre.

The move follows this week's announcement that National Mutual (which is 5) per cent owned by Axa-UAP, the French insurer) and Lend Lease Corp, the Australian financial services group, may merge their insurance and fund management arms. The merger would create a A\$50 billion fund management powerhouse in Australia to rival Australian Mutual

Delayed orders route Boeing \$696m into red

BOEING'S struggle to keep mand for new aircraft led to a oss in its third quarter.

Boeing shocked the market on Wednesday when it revealed that the quarter's per-formance would be driven into loss by a \$1.6 billion premx charge to sort out produc-tion problems, including raw material and parts shortages, and the difficulty of integrat-ing thousands of new "boomime" employees. The Seattle company was forced to halt 747 and 737 jet production lines earlier this month.

The third-quarter loss. against a \$466 million profit in the same period of 1996, equates to a 72 cents a share deficit. Wall Street analysts were especting a figure closer to 60 cents, according to a survey yesterday. The stock was trading at \$48%, down \$5.6before lunch.

In the third quarter, Boeing recorded sales of \$11.4 billion, compared with \$9 billion in the corresponding 1996 period. It delivered a total of 89 aircraft, compared with 65.

"Unplanned production inefficiencies" associated with the next-generation 737 ac-counted for \$700 million of the \$1.6 billion exceptional charge, it revealed yesterday. Thomas Basacchi, Boeing's



A turbulent third quarter equates to 72 cents a share loss

that he hopes the production problems will be fully resolved in mid-1998. Boeing said the third-quarter deficit was also due to higher research and development ex-penditure, a higher tax rate Products Division.

The merger with McDon-nell Douglas, completed on August 1, led to \$99 million

British Steel loses bid to outlaw subsidies

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH STEEL has lost a bid to outlaw subsidies given to European competitors, after legal action was quoshed yesterday by a European Union court.

action two years ago against European Commission-backed subsidies to a Spanish company and an Italian manufactorer, may appeal to the European Court of Justice. British Steel's action had

called for the Commission's approval of state aid worth £3.5 billion to be declared outside the remit of the Steel Aid Code and therefore illegal Its case was backed by other steelmakers, who took parallel action complaining about sub-sidies for companies in Germany and Portugal. Those

Court of Pirst Instance noted that subsidies were meant to rationalise the steel industry and preserve jobs in areas of

ly we regret very much that the court did not support the company's legal interpretation of the treaty ... British Steel will decide whether to appeal when it has studied the full text of the judgment."

NDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

The company, which started

actions were also dismissed. high unemployment.
British Steel said: "Obvious-

City police and FBI join forces

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation. (FBI) put on a public display of force with the City of London Police yesterday in the latest offensive in the fight against international white-collar crime_

The usually camera-shy FBI has teamed up with the City police and Ernst & young, the accommant, to finance a racy new video, A Meeting of Minds, aimed at alerting businesses to the perils of fraud... The video, produced at a cost of £90,000. is available free to companies and makes for gripping viewing, complete with shady East Europeans and slick-haired

Filmed in London and New York, the video demonstrates the ease with which computers can be manipulated, potentially spelling disaster for those whose compliance systems prove lacking. William Taylor, the City police commission-

er, said: "The main purpose of this hard-hitting video is to demonstrate that fraud is not inevitable; relatively simple sieps. conscientiously applied, will make a difference. However, ignore basic precautions and the result can be catastrophic." Speaking on behalf of the FBI, John E Guido, legal attache at the American Embassy in London, said the growth of computer-related crime had increased pressure on law enforcement and busi-

ness organisations. The video will be

distributed through 56 FBI field offices in

America, as well as to the UK business community.

An estimated \$300 billion is lost to

fraud every year in the US alone. Ernst & Young says that 75 per cent of companies have suffered at least one fraud in the last

Emerging economies, including those in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, are thought to be particularly at risk from computer fraud. Many of these are supplied with the latest technology. creating opportunities for sophisticated criminals. In addition, problems of corruption in the police and judiciary can impede investigations in these



Man of glass with a crystal clear strategy

f people saw what I do every day, they would think I am crazy," says Paolo Scaroni, chief executive of Pilkington, the British glass company he was brought in to shake up last spring. Since then he has travelled non-stop to 'walk the talk" at Pilkington's factories in Australia, the Americas. China, and through Europe to

discover how to bring it alive again.
If they knew that Scaroni has enough money not to work and that he offered to work for Pilkington for no salary, only share options, they might think he was even pottier.
That is Scaroni for you. To work is

to live," he cries. "Success is the real freedom. If you're not successful, then you'll be scared, scared about losing your job and your esteem." A tall, broad-set, northern Italian,

Scaroni has fire in his belly and that sophisticated confidence that most industrialists would die for. He is a glass man rather than an Italian, that genus of cosmopolitan executive polished by an MBA, McKinsey, five languages, and years jet-setting for

companies, such as Saint Gobain and Techint. Now he is running an international company which happens to have its headquarters in Lancashire, but which he plans to

make competitive again. His arrival at St Helens has rattled a number of the older guard as he has stripped away many of management's sacred cows. Slowly the natives are coming back on side, but he has said the HQ still needs to halve its size and double its power.

Next Wednesday, Scaroni hopes to persuade long-suffering investors that his fire can work for them. With half-year figures he will present a review of the £1.5 billion-turnover building products operation. Analysts predict this will involve writeoffs of £200 million, the sale and closures of many divisions, and job losses. As many as 4,000 jobs out of 39,000 worldwide could go. Scaroni cannot talk about the

review, but his strategy is crystal clear. He has never shied from being ruthless — at Saint Gobain he sliced the workforce from 6,000 to 2,000 in two years. First, Pilkington has to be



CAT PARTIES CARGO

Born: 1946. 1968: Bocconi University 1968-71: Chevron 1972: MBA Columbia. 1972-73: McKinsey 1973: Saint Gobain 1985: Vice-president, Techint 1996: Pilkington director 1997: Chief executive,

made more competitive, he says. Pilkington has 6,000 arms at the moment - I want 3,000 brains." He also wants a new culture, a kind of international Coca-Cola style. There is no brain big enough to make different strategies work in all these countries at any one time. If I had Lee loccoca to run each division, it would be different. I'm not capable of doing this, nor is anyone else, so you have to streamline," he says.

. هكذا من رلامل

Pilkington's customers have no loyalty to us so we must make sure they know that they get complete quality and safety from us," he says. Secondly, staff must have a sense of purpose. Thirdly, he says, there is huge potential in the glass market, which is growing at 4 per cent per annum. Countries such as Brazil are growing at 10 per cent. There is also more to exploit in research and

Scaroni has set up a new R&D fund.
Finally, there is fun. "We must also laugh together. You have to have time for laughter," he says. The fun factor caught the eye of Sir Nigel Ruid. Pilkington's chairman, when he was visiting the Italian SIV glassmaker in Venice in 1994. SIV was a joint venture between Pilkington and Techint, and Ruidd food the factors. could feel the factory, run by

Pilkington's automotive glass division last year but when it became clear that changes in the overall group were not happening as fast as they should, Rudd asked him to take over as chief executive.

Scaroni says: "It was not a comploto" not at all. I would have been happy to wait. I think Rudd knows I understand this business. I don't care what people think about me. I want to make money for them. and if I do, they will love me. If I don't, then I have failed."

Rudd has put himself on the line with Scaroni. He has said that if their strategy over the next two years does not work, then he will go too. Scaroni adds: "Nigel likes me. He has brought me into Pilkington, but if I fail, then as chairman he will fire me immediately. That is what I expect." Adding: "Simul stabunt, simul ca-

denr (which simply means. Together we stand, together we fall). "Have I convinced you?" he ask

MARGARETA PAGANO



Paolo Scaroni was willing to work for no salary

Ferragamo family take steps to Watchdog day keep business on successful path

Jon Ashworth on the formula that

ensures the ongoing prosperity of an Italian fashion enterprise

amily businesses have a habit of making a mess of things, especially when shoes are involved. Think of C&J Clark, maker of Clarks shoes, which came close to tearing itself apart five years ago. The 1,000-strong Clark family has turned to outsiders to help steer it on the unifying path to improved profits.

But Ferragamo, another family-owned business engaged in the making of shoes, has so far managed to tread a remarkably successful path. All the ingredients for trouble are there: several siblings, dozens of grandchildren waiting in the wings and a product based on design, which generally indicates the dangerous presence of artistic temperament. It could be poised to provide a re-rum of the Gucci . saga, in which family rifts almost destroyed one of the world's best-known luxury brand names. Instead, the Ferragamos appear to have things splendidly under conmol. Harvard Business School assigns Ferragamo as a case study in how a family-owned company should be run. And, despite pressure to follow the revitalised Gucci onto the stock market, Ferragamo's avowed intention is to remain a happy family company. Salvatore Ferragamo, who

was born in 1898 to a poor

family in the village of Bonito. south of Naples, made his name as "shoemaker to the stars", counting Mary Pickford and Rudolph Valentino among his early customers. In the 1920s, as Hollywood began to roll, Salvatore moved to Los Angeles, where he worked with most of the leading stars and directors. He even took anatomy studies to further his understanding of feet. Salvatore's labour laid the

foundations for a diverse luxury goods group, which in 1996 enjoyed sales of 851 billion lire (£298 million), and has branched out from shoes to embrace scarves, handbags, and other luxury accessories. Ladies' footwear accounts for 38 per cent of sales, and handbags, belts, luggage and small leatherware speak for 3) per cent. Some 41 per cent of sales are in North America, with 33 per cent in Europe and 26 per cent in the Far East. Wealthy young Thais and fashionable Hong Kong Chinese are big buyers of luxury goods, hence the plunge in the share price of LVMH this week. Louis Vuitton luggage is what the status-conscious Asian likes to pack.

Salvatore returned to Italy in 1936, and settled in Florence, continuing to cultivate afar. He purchased the Palaz-



A Ferragamo family gathering: Ferruccio, back row left, Massimo and Fulvia: Fiamma, centre row left, and Leonardo; Giovanna, front row left, and Wanda

beautiful Florentine monuments, and made it his base, welcoming a myriad stars. Salvatore died in 1960, leaving his widow, Wanda, now

75, who runs Ferragamo with the help of her six children, and has 20 grandchildren waiting in the wings. Add in a generation or two, and there will be scores of Ferragamos staking a claim to the company's fortunes. The big question whether the tightly-knit family group will succeed in transmitting its values and

goals to the next generation. Signora Wanda, as she is known to employees, has done a remarkable job in holding it all together. One safeguard is a set of rules for grandchildren who want to enter the business. They must have gone to university, and gained experience working for another com-pany. Not all the Ferragamo grandchildren will join, but they will hold shares.

Lawyers are working on a "family pact" aimed at keep-ing equity within the family should any sibling choose to sell up. Wanda and her children own 100 per cent of the shares, and are firmly op-posed to going public. Ferragamo has enjoyed sales

cent per annum for the past six years despite weak economies in Europe and Japan, pointing to the success of the family

After Wanda, the next key player is Ferruccio, the eldest son, and chief executive. His sister. Fiamma, is vice president, looking after ladies' footwear, handbags, luggage and small leatherware. Giovanna supervises the ladies' pret-aporter sector. Fulvia deals with accessories, including scarves, ties, beach towels and costume jewellery, Leonardo has specific responsibility for France, Japan and Hong Kong Massimo, the youngest, runs Moda Imports, which distributes Ferragamo in North America.

n July 1996, the company took control of Emanuel Ungaro, the French haute couture house known for coquettish dresses and sensual perfumes. Ferragamo is believed to have paid about £40 million for 51r cent of Ungaro, wh continues independently.

So to the next generation. Perruccio, 5l, has left his five children under no illusions: "My boys have been told since they were very young that I will never agree to let them enter the company unless they meet special requirements. They must have a good degree. They must gain experience in another company."

Will the next generation succumb to the lure of the stock market, eager to unlock the value of their investments? Ferruccio says: "People say to us, why not float? We always say, the company is solid, healthy, has a good base, is profitable ... We will be like a arge collection of sharehold-

ers in a private company." -The formula is likely to remain gospel – at least while Wanda and Ferruccio remain in charge. After that, the Ferragamos could well become Italy's answer to Dallas. riven by machismo and in-trigue. Hollywood would expect nothing less.

people at the various City regulatory bodies this week-end. Tuesday sees the launch of the new City super-regula-tor. There are fears that Gordon Brown's little playmate Charlie Whelan, so renowned for his Jamesian prose style, may mark the launch with a policy statement which has nothing to do with City regula-tion. Which would be a shame for all those regulators who have been waiting for months for their moment of glory.

Incidentally, I hear that Howard Davies and the three new heads of the new regulator are now known among the other frontline regulators as the Four Horsemen of the none of the others expect to survive for long.

 SHOCKING proof of cor-ruption among fund manag-ers. The following was received by Quality Software Products. a British computer firm, from a Japanese house. "We are doing equity research. Please send your company's annual report and lOK. Thank you." The money was assembled, in unmarked fivers, and shipped to Tokyo. Actually not. the annual accounts, although not applicable to British companies. Still, it makes one wonder if, given the size of the average investor relations budget, the original offer was not cheap at the price.

I rust-worthy? A COUPLE of weeks ago, I

learnt of the imminent departure of three directors, including Gavin Reed, the chairman, from the board of ivory & Sime Enterprise Capital, the investment trust being turned over by Scottish Value Trust. The story was denied by a spokesman. "It's not true. They would not dare quit ... It's not even likely. It's so far from being a remote possibili-ty." Reed too, a man whose words I had no reason to doubt, issued a similar denial. A week later Reed and his two colleagues resigned. I will not dignify the junior minion with a name. But he knows

who he is, and Reed should



perhaps be more careful in

"LAUNCHING the new look" is the headline to a series of glossy advertisements for computer professionals from Sainsbury's. The model on the ad is dressed in a black evening gown and clutching a lorgnette. The bottom half of her body transforms, through clever graphics, into a cab-bage. Yes, a cabbage. Long live the new look - half woman, half cabbage. No. I have no idea what it means either. But I wish someone

Big switch

WHO said this? A clue, It was last month, on the merger between Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse to create a huge accountancy monolith. "Size isn't everything. The ability to provide an excellent and seamless service has more to do with culture ... and a merger of two large organisations does not necessarily make that easier."

And who else said, rather churlishly: "There was no client or market pressure for a merger of this scale. It was probably a defensive move," The first came from Nick Land, senior partner at Ernst & Young, the second from Colin Sharman, senior partner of KPMG, within days of each other last month. Since when Ernst & Young and KPMG

have announced their own

MARTIN WALLER

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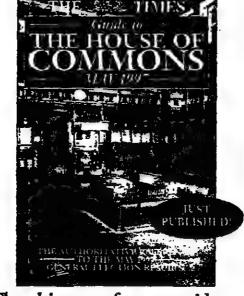
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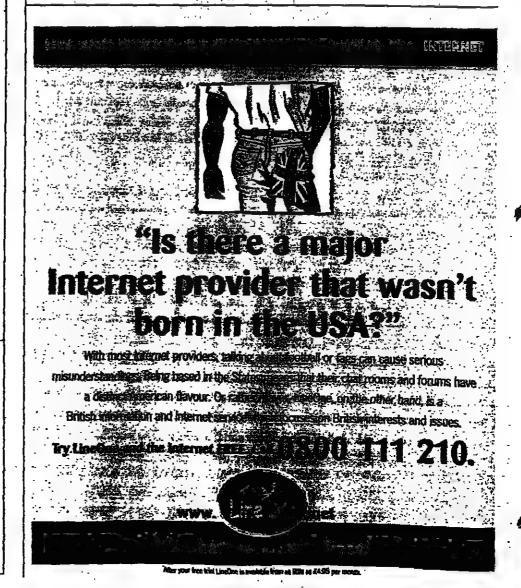
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Plunge in futures points to further blood-letting

TRADERS in London are bracing themselves for another blood-letting session when financial markets start trading on Monday after the veekend break.

Far from riding out the storm, it looks as if yesterday was just a brief full for City ovestors. Last night all-eyes rere anxiously focused on Wall Street, where investors remained clearly worried about events in the Far East. The Dow Jones industrial average saw an early 91-point lead wiped out, to be replaced with a 122-point deficit in little more than an hour.

By contrast, there was nothing to suggest anything was amiss at the close of business in London, where the FISE 100 index ended the week on a reasonably steady note.
It had taken advantage of

the overnight rally in the Hang Seng to post an early 111-point rise. But with New ork losing ground it was nable to maintain the early momentum and closed 21.3 down at 4,970.2 Tracking proved thin with 691 million shares changing hands as the loss on the week was stretched to 300.9, or 5.7 per cent.

But it was activity down in the futures pit that gave the most cause for concern and suggested that a further selloff may be on the cards. The December series plunged 215 points during the last hour of trading, from a peak of 5,150 to a low of 4,935 before rallying to close at 4,952.

This brought to an end a cek that the City would sooner forget. It had hoped the tenth anniversary of the Great Crash on Monday would pass off uneventfully.

Neither was it the best week. for the London Stock Exchange to introduce the new order-driven computer system, though in retrospect the reluctance of fund managers to use it when the going got tough probably limited the

losses among leading shares.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor has promised to clear up the uncertainty over the Government's handling of the single currency issue and will be making a statement in the House of Commons on Monday. Fund managers must now spend a nervous weekend awaiting the start of trading in the Far East on Sunday night. HSBC, which has fallen

more than 200p this week and niggest company, rallied 2p to



Capital Radio DJ Chris Tarrant. Shares in the station held steady at 519p despite a drop in audience reach

£16.12, after £17.30. But there were further losses for Standard Chartered, down 1912D at 670p. Cable & Wireless, lp cheaper at 472p and Incheape, lp off at 24312p.

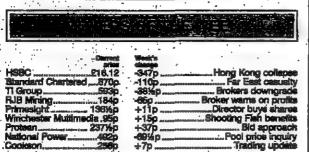
NatWest Bank eased 3p to 947p, with speculation rife about the future of its investment banking arm. The gos-sips are adament that

launch an inquiry into electricity pool prices. National Power was 4p better at 492p, while National Grid put on 812p at 2861ap, but losses were seen in PowerGen, 6p to 672p, Scottish Hydro, op to 441p, and Scottish Power, 2p to 430p. Brokers are continuing to take a healthy view of pros-pects for Wolseley, the build-

Redland jumped 10p to 347'2p amid talk of a possible counterbid for the troubled building supplies group. Lafarge of France has an offer of 320p a share on the table and is determined to win the day. City talk suggests it may try to negotiate agreed terms of up to 370p a share as part of a knockout blow.

Deutsche Morgan Grenell ers' merchant, after full-year results on Tuesday. The price will make an offer for the rose 103 ap to 515p after several business. Bardays closed off brokers spoke out in the group's favour. ABN Amro Hoare Govett is urging clients the bottom, reducing the defi-cit to 15p at £15.35. Whispers in the Square Mile maintain the sale of BZW is a race between two sultors, Credit Suisse First Dresdner Kleinwort Benson Boston and Donaldson Lutkin rates the shares a "buy". Kleinwort is also upbeat about Pearson, which lifted the & Jenrette. The suggestion was met with "no comment"

price 5p to 780p.
Cadenove, the broker, is believed to be behind a revival The power generators closed mixed, still reflecting the Government's decision to in De La Rue after recom-



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radio listeners have been abandoning the commercial airwaves in droves during the past three months, with everything from the warm weather to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, blamed, Audience reach at Capital dropped from 30 per cent to 25 per cent during the period. But the company says it has weathered the storm. The market's appetite for

at 519p while Scottish Radio

fell 7p to 3891 zp. It seems that

football clubs is clearly waning. Yesterday it was the turn of Leicester City, which began trading at a discount after a placing of shares at 112p. The price dropped to 871 ap before attracting support. It closed at 931 ap. a discount of 181 ap. A couple of weeks ago Notting-ham Forest was floated and quickly moved to a discount. It was ip firmer at 6112p last

er newcomer, continued to make headway after a placing by Barclays de Zoete Wedd at 147p. The price added 7p at 17112p, stretching the week's

lead to 24¹zp.

The speculative buying that lifted BICC above the 200p level last week has now evaporated. The price lost a further 41 ap to 1701 ap, after briefly touching 168p, on the back of some cautious comments from Merrill Lynch, the broker, which is urging clients to reduce their holdings.

Reckitt & Colman was also a dull market, tumbling 251 ap to 9391ap after SBC Warburg. the broker, urged clients to

☐ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices ended the week with further modest gains, having underperformed other European markets for much of the day. The latest GDP succeeded in fuelling speculation about the need for a rise in interest rates. In the futures oit, the December series of the long gilt closed £1s better at £1182532. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose seven ticks to £1181932, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 firmed a tick to

IIII 132.

□ NEW YORK: Wall Street shares made a sharp U-turn by midday as an early rally quickly fizzled out and technology stocks fell on unresolved currency worries in Asia. The midday Dow was 7,752.00, down 95.77 points.

New York (midday): 7752.00 (-95.77) TEMPUS

The generation game

trial property rents are on the

increase, particularly in London where Bilton has big

holdings. Some analysts reckon Bilton's NAV is 340p.

But the shy and retiring

Bilton is reluctant to seek

verification and, as a result,

its shares languish at 263p, a

thumping 24 per cent dis-count. Added to that is curiosity about some of

BILTON DIRECTORS

been whingeing about the price they pay for juice from the pool. They are about as convincing as a currency trader complaining because he lost money betting against the

Apparently, big electricity users are an-noyed about huge spikes in electricity prices at times of peak use. The concern about the cost of electricity has led some companies to build their own generators, but John Battle, the Energy Minister, has launched a wholesale review of the operation of the pool, the body into which generators bid their capacity

Few people understand the arcane workings of the pool and most of the generators have agreed contracts with customers outside the pool, which sets its price on the basis of

INDUSTRIAL electricity consumers have marginal bids made by generators. Such a been whineeing about the price they pay for system is bound to create volatility as a result of weather, breakdowns at particular generators and, famously. French strikes. Industrial users suspect gamesmanship by generators pitching their bids in a way that secures high prices, yet this market is becoming more, not

ss, crowded — hardly ripe for a cartel. Electricity users have enjoyed huge cuts in prices since privatisation - down 24 to 30 per cent over the last seven years. That is as it should be, but it is unclear whether this review will secure better prices. In fact the opposite could happen: what power company is likely to build new generating capacity with a pricing review looming? The outcome will be unknown for some three years. High-yielding stocks make good defensive investments and in this market the generators look a very sound buy.

Bilton's assets, which are

said to include salmon fish-

ing rights on the River Dec.

Billon last fended off a bid in 1983, and with 29 per cent in the hands of a family trust

it may feel secure. But Laing

Properties did not survive

with 43 per cent in family

hands and MEPC is said to

be scouting hard for indus-trial property.

Bilton

2410.4 (-7.3

... 132.74 (+0.09) ... 100.14 (+0.03)

EVERY sector of the stock market has its dinosaur, and Bilton is property's distinguished contribution. Bilton is both builder and investor. mainly focused on industrial estates in the South East. It could be a family business; indeed, it once was, under its founder Percy Bilton, who died in 1983. But since then Ron Groom has run Bilton in his own idiosyncratic way,

ignored by the City. Bilton makes money, £18 million per year, and pays a dividend, but the property portfolio is a mystery. Riding in the face of criticism. Bilton continues to publish a director's valuation of the portfolio, seeking reviews only every five years. The net asset value has been falling and, according to the directors, was 312p per share at the end of last December. Yet indus-

ALIZYME is a "virtual"

biotech company — it's virtually not there. Floated on Aim

last year, it had little more than an idea that there was

money to be made from

drugs to treat obesity. Sir

Brian Richards, the British

Biotech founder, was per-

suaded to contribute his

name and Alizyme scraped

ing about raising another £10

million and is keen to demon-

strate progress. Richard Palmer, the chief executive,

suggested yesterday that big pharmaceutical companies

are fighting to buy the rights

to a possible drug to treat mucositis, a gut problem

caused by cancer therapy.

The company is now think-

together £5 million.

Alizyme

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believe. Alizyme claims some promising results in animals but it is still a year away from safety trials on humans. With the odds still heavily stacked against any drug ever reaches the still heavily stacked.

how much for the rights to

As for obesity, Alizyme hasn't even selected its compound and vaguely hopes for something similar to Roche's Xenical. Since the Roche drug has still to be launched, a me-too product will presumably face potential intellectual property problems.

Alizyme is still gazing into

the bluest of blue skies. One for those who enjoy Russian

Tour operators

WHENEVER the travel industry thinks the coast is clear, another obstacle app-ears. Generally, the prob-lems are self-inflicted. Operators invest in too many holidays and discount like mad at the end of the season.

However, the immediate threat is from an unusual

source: regulation. The MMC is due to publish its report on the travel industry and the outcome is unlikely to please tour operators. The issue is vertical integration between the operators and the travel agents. A company like Airtours, which owns Going Places, and Thomson, which owns Lunn Poly, can push the parent's product and at the same time earn commission, effectively a double-dip into the punter? pocket. Given the cut-throat history of the travel trade, a recommendation that agents be sold off seems unlikely but the MMC can still spoil the fun. The issue is likely to be disclosure and a requirement that agents publish their commission could be a serious blow to the recovering

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THE TIMES TODAY

FA damns Italian police

■ The Football Association accused the Italian police of "deliberate intimidation" and "extreme provocation" in a damning report into the violence that marred England's World Cup match in Rome a formight ago.

The condemnation threatened to blow up into a diplomatic storm as the Italian Embassy in London dismissed the investigation as a "one-sided whitewash".....

Blair shows Britain video

■ Tony Blair put his personal stamp on Britain's new image as a young, vibrant nation with a promotional video shown to millions of television viewers across the Commonwealth - and watched in silence at Edinburgh. ... Pages I, 13

Willetts returns

David Willetts, one of the Conservatives' foremost political thinkers, is rejoining the Centre for Policy Studies Page 2

Stormy Oasis

Nnel and Liam Gallagher served up old-fashioned rock star loutishness on the BBC... Page 3

Political designs

Tory women MPs struck back in the political fashion wars by criticising the rapidly shortening hemlines, high heels and dress code of the new intake of sister Labour ... Page 3

Venables 'dishonest' A judge called Terry Venables dishonest as he jailed the former England football coach's ... Page 4 righthand man...

Final account

A week's mourning of wine and nibbles precedes the closure of the Ladies Branch of the Royal Bank Page II

Human rights

Human rights are to be enshrined in British law under government proposals that will allow people to seek redress in UK courts rather than in Europe...

No-go zone

Algeria has become a virtual no-go zone for foreigners, more than 200 having been killed there in five

Iran olive branch

Teheran has welcomed Britain's decision to issue an exclusion order against the leader of Iran's main opposition group Page 16 Breasts award

A woman who claimed her breasts

were left deformed after silcone implants was awarded £20,636 Labour whodunnit

Blame for finishing off the "honey-

moon couple", Gordon and Tony. has been laid at the door of those who brief the press Page 19

Rector guilty of affair

■ Clifford Williams, 49, the Rector of Benllech faced being stripped of his holy orders after an ecclesiastical court in Wales found, after a five-day hearing, that he had had an adulterous six-year affair with a married parishioner...... Pages 1, 5

NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove: Mary Robinson changed things for ever, Another Mary will take over as President on Thursday when Ireland votes, and it is neck and neck _____ Page 21

Hillary Clinton: Sister Frigidaire, as she was known throughout the Administration's first term, has returned as Mellow Mother Page 9

Umbrio appeal: It is emerging that far many more art treasures in Umbria are at serious risk than was previously thought Page 6

OPINION

The Bill for Rights: This Human Rights Bill could shift the balance between Parliament and the courts. irreversibly Page 23

First lady, second look: Farewell then Lady Macheth. Hello, Mother Teresa. Hillary Clinton celebrates her 50th birthday with a glittering gala in Chicago...... Page 23

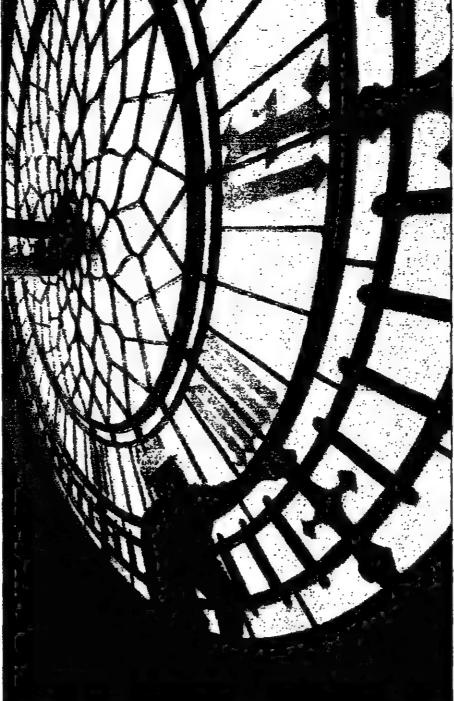
Round the reading rooms: The new British Library reading rooms are a step on the road from libraries to the global bookshelf...... Page 23

COLUMNS

John Lloyd: Manoeuvrings point to two worrying states of affairs: first, that there is a potential breach between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor; and secondly, that it may be decided to rule out entry to the single currency for this ParliamentPage 22 Bronwen Maddox: America

is in a mess on the whole question of childcare Page 22 Simon Barnes: I don't twitch. That is to say. I don't chase

rare birds. I don't even keep a



Mike McCann, Keeper of the Great Clock, uses the twice a year changing of the clocks — they go back tomorrow at 2am — as an opportunity to maketum Big Ben

Tees: At least 20 cases of alleged fraud by firms. under contract to Training and Enterprise Councils are being investigated by the Government.. Page 27 Utilities: Brian Staples, ousted chief executive of United Utilities, served 2 El million writ on the company ____ Page 27

Economy: Stockmarkets

appeared to recover from Thursday's slide in Hong Kong until Wali Street went into reverse turning. a 92-point gam into a 122point loss Page 27 Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 21,3 points to close at 4970.2. Sterling's tradeweighted index rose from 101.7 to 102.1 after a rise from \$1.6298 to \$1.6338 and from DM2.8921 to

Cricket: Philip Turnell can tour the West Indies with England after being given a suspended sentence and fined for failing to take a Page 35 drug test Tennis: Jonas Bjorkman overcame Nicolas Kiefer in the quarter-finals of the

Eurocard Open ... Page 41

Maurice Griffiths, yacht designer, author and editor; Roger Wybot, French counter-intelligence head; Captain Quentin Smythe,

End of line for legal aid gravy train; "ruined" Hoibein portrait; modern martyrs for Westminster. Abbey....

Breekfast heir: Zoe Ball

rises and shines Page 8 Winter teshion: Grey days ... Page 52 ahead. Top tapper: Michael Flatley's feat ____ Page 30 Battle cry: Sex abuse and US soldiers ____ Page 16

Weighty stuff: The big interview with Beck Hansen Pages 6 - 8 On her toes: Siobhan DaviesPages 10, 11 Metal gura: Popping in to Paolozzi Pages 26, 27

WEEKEND

Elten John: Why I love my garden..... Pages I, 2 Property: Shadowlands setting for sale.....Page 13 Travel: Scychelies; ski Canada; cruise the Pages 21-29 world...

raste of the Amer

New British food and drink: Part 5

GUIDE

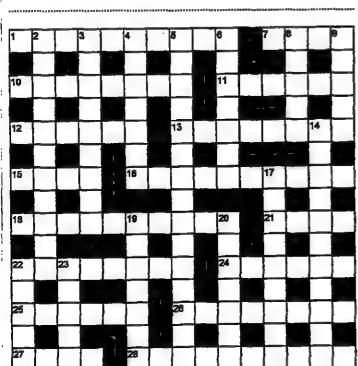
Your future: Changes in savings options and the

For younger readers of The Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,620

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times. Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ...



ACROSS

- 1 Second-hand stalls quick to accept a bit of foreign money (4,6).
- 7 Placid learner out in academic stream (4). 10 Remove lead from slow oppo-
- nents at cards? (8). 11 Something strange seen in every quarter of 1997 (6).
- 12 Mischievous spirits comed on course (6).
- 13 Applause not all found attractive
- 15 As soon as Conservative splits
- unity (4). 16 Outrageously rubbish half my
- clues (but not first in crossword) (10).
- 18 Sweet teacher expert at making money (4.6).
- 21 Cut spruce (4). 22 Girl was thoughtful and not diverted (S).
- 24 Run without a stitch (6). 25 Warning home appears to col-
- lapse (4.2).
- 26 Object is found by English fe-males men respected in Turkey

Solution to Puzzle No 20.614

YUPPY TART AREA LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: P Lawther, New Merseyside: J Bailey, Dulwich, London: D Y

27 Attack with hammer (4). 28 On an even keel, but without energy? (10).

2 Ray establishment where president drank? (8.3).

3 An attraction designed, we hear, to be used in moderation (9). Witnesses present for trials (7).

5 Type needs alteration in suit nice quality! (4-11). 6 Counter-reformation's

8 Foreign friend one's naming? No.

all names withheld (5). 9 Live under a tree, perhaps (5). 14 Claim ritual must be changed involving all sorts of people (11).

17 One hunts king out thus? (9). 19 Ways gunmen raised the equip ment they need (7). 20 Soothing the others if you reveal

only the conclusions (7). 22 Having no facets complete? (5). 23 Forging equipment found in Italian village (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,619

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... Page 22

Close NE Scottand will see hurther rain, with sleet or snow at first in Shelland. Cloud will apreed to north and east Scotland and northeast England, with drizte possible the afternoon. Southwest Scotland and N Ireland will be dry with surmy spells, turning cloudler later. Wales and western and southern England will see more sunshing after early foo or

see more sunshine after early cloud clears. Li London, SE England, Cent S England; Channel lales, SW England; dry with long spells of sunshine; Light easierly wind. MEE 12G (54F).

and mainty aurny, but cloudy later. Light NW wind. Mex 11C (52F). Lake District, leie of Man, Cent

☐ NE England: dry, meinly sunny, becoming cloudy with patchy drizzle later. Light NW wind. Max 11C (52F).

tright spells, becoming cloudy with light rain. Light NW wind. Mix 11C (52F). Aberdeen, Merry Pirth, ME Seel-land: duli with patchy light rain. Moderate N wind. Max 10C (50F).

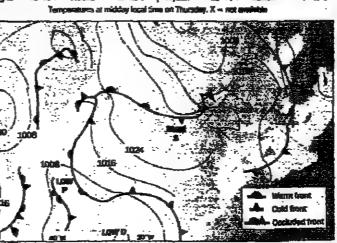
lends, Argys, NW Southwet s spells but douding over in north west i Light variable wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ Republic of Ireland: dry and bright, with surrry spale developing offer early mist or fog patches. Wind SE light or moderate. Max 12C (54P).

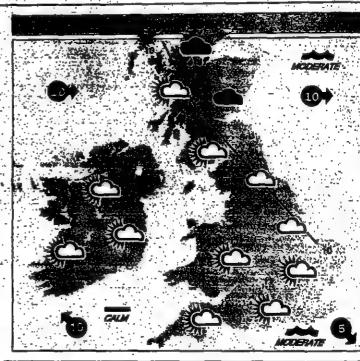
☐ Cesteoic setted in most areas but cold overnight with fog patches. Mest places will have some sunshine but it will stay more cloudy in east and far north. Rain most likely in N and E Scotland.

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C'piwan Dubith D



nges to chart above from moon: high S will build as it moves into the North Sex, law D ill and become indistinct as it moves E; low P will move slowly N as it gradually despirate



service) to Barbados on any Saturday from 1 November till 11 April • fourteen nights at the hounious Accra Beach Hotel • Highland First to Gatwick from £999

DC-10 to Barbados on 23 December • fourteen nights at Sam Lord's • New Year's Dinner • Gatwick return £1,499 or £2,499 returning Concorde with ten nights at Sam Lord's Concorde to Barbados on 30 December • seven nights at Hilton • New Year's Dinner • DC-10 to Gatwick £2,499

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Fly by 757 to Ivalo for the day • meet Father Christmas luncheon • snowmobile and reindeer sleigh rides Arctic Circle crossing ceremony shopping depart from Gatwick, Luton, Manchester or Stansted on 7,13,19,22,23 or 25 December 757 return from £299

757 to Ivalo on 14 Dec. ● all activities plus husky dogs sleigh ride • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £999 or £1,599 flying both ways supersonic on Concorde

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

BIG GAME HUNTER Matt Dawson is a Lion back in favour PAGE 40

DANNY BAKER Kick rugby off the park PAGE 35



WEEKEND MONEY

Studio flats: are they now out of fashion? **PAGES 51-64**



Peking to Paris: the end of the road? **PAGES 45-49**

SATURDAY SPORT

VILLENEUVE AND SCHUMACHER HAVE THEIR EYES ON





Villeneuve, left, and Schumacher may be poles apart in temperament and upbringing, but this weekend they are united by ambition: the desire to secure the Formula One crown. Photographs: Allsport

TWO men, one title: the ultimate attraction of opposites. The duel for the Formula One world championship pitches a privileged prep assiduous son of a factory mentally different as their and Phil Collins

The only thing that unites Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher is their unrelenting ambition, which may well consume them tomorrow when a global odyssey ends on the dusty, bumpy Circuito de Jerez. Any weakness, human or technological, will be ex-

ence in excess of 350 million. Schumacher has no sense of istory unless he makes it. illeneuve lives with the ghost of his father, Gilles, an icon are at either end of the emotional spectrum. Ferrari are fuelled by La Passione.

World title resting in lap of the gods

Michael Calvin assesses the rivals title for a record minth time, are a watchword for clinical ready to drive on the edge in Jerez

"I wouldn't be able to win races in a bad car," Schumacher argued, but his intrinworthless, because the £80 million that Ferrari have invested in the pursuit of their first world title for a genera-tion cannot buy invulnerabillacks is a sportsman's birthright, the privilege of being able to decide his own destiny. Villeneuve has the burden of

ture, illustrated yesterday by a lurid slide into a gravel trap during free practice for the European Grand Prix, is illsuited to the demands of overcoming the deficit of a single point in the last race of

"Neither of them will sleep very well this weekend, but I wouldn't want to be in Jacques's shoes," Damon Hill, whose anticlimactic year as world champion is about to done anyway." end, said. "He is under an enormous amount of pres-

anything, because, deep down, he knows he has frittered away his advantage.

To an extent, Williams have done their bit by winning the constructors' championship. Now it's down to him. It's his problem. On a purely

sure, from himself as much as

personal level I'd like to see him win, but you have to say that Michael has done excep-tionally well. If he wins, it will be down to his brilliance. If Jacques wins, everyone will say that's what he should have

It is time for the Spice Boy to prove his substance. Craig Pollock, Villeneuve's manager, may insist that "Jacques goes into another mode when increasingly distant voice. Villeneuve's ability is beyond question, but many, even within his own team, have been alienated by his attitude.

tries that little bit harder to regarded with a sense of awe. Gerhard Berger summed it up best. "It doesn't matter ensure we do not make any whether Michael wins the title this weekend," he said. "He's

Benetton team manager, was, with Brawn, a key element in Schumacher's two previous world title wins. "The pressure does get to him a little bit,

doesn't show it in his driving," he said. "In fact, the more pressure you put on him, the more he concentrates. If you know him you can tell when he's worried. He puts pressure on the team. It is all 'we must



Please tell our wandering boy to stay put

Gascoigne let loose in Premiership

would be worrying for England

HOW very unsettling to learn that Paul Gascoigne might be coming back to English football. It was like

Hammer horror films when someone enters, staggering, with wild eyes and tattered lab-coat and reports "it's on the looser Suddenly a lot of things have to be rethought. very quickly. Alarms are sounded; drawbridges closed with a rante of chains, above all, complacency is roundly cursed. You really believed Kangers would be the end of has certainly lent enchant-

shrug. The thing is, for

fan like me, it's been lovely having Gazza play in Scotland. It's been safe. We've been able to wave cheerful you-hous across the border to that big happy fish in his wee pond, with the double pleasure of enjoying goals, goals, and reserving the right to disown him at the very first sign of trouble. Distance



An emotional Gascoigne hugs Wright in relief after the final whistle in Rome

cerned. Every time he turns up for international duty, we are pleased to see him, appland his renewed dedication to fitness, take a genuine interest in his hair, and burst into tears at the superlative quality

of his shimmies. But does that mean we necessarily want him back? Well, no. Because the tragedy is, when you get Gazza, you get all of him. It is no accident that Gascoigne's pigeon-chested body divides clearly into two ill-proportioned parts. something like the house resting on chicken-legs in Russian folk tales. With Gazza, there's the rather splendid half con-trolled by his legs (the good

grinning, buffoony half con-trolled by his brain. He's got a foot like a brain, and a brain like a foot, poor beggar.

Nobody expects dazzling intellectuality from footballers; Graeme Le Saux is known as the Jean-Paul Sartre of British football because he collects antiques. But a man who'd be Menace identity parade well, somehow you draw the

unbelievable. For his age and experience he's already there among the greats. With his

control, the guy is just com-

plete."
The German is isolated by

his talent - "basically you

Will he come, or not? Is the Night of the Living Gazza set to commence at Villa Park? Is a tremendous footfall in the distance already loosening the brickwork of the Trinity Road stand? Rumours now suggest not. But when you think about it, a transfer to Aston Villa would give Gascoigne auto-matic top place as Villa's Most Interesting Player (the petu-lant Stan Collymore disqualifies himself).

But on the debit side, what if Premiership football wears him out before the World Cup? Over-excitement is surely something to protect Gazza from, especially in his advancing years. For the World Cup. you want him relaxed and confident, not worn to an agonised frazzle.

So on balance, stay in Scotland, Gazza. And if you are understandably miffed at Rangers' ungrateful willing-ness to sell you, find mature forgiveness in your heart. Stay put and stay happy. Turn off the alarms, and re-open the portcullis. Back on the slab with you, Gazza, and refasten those straps. That way, you really do yourself and every-



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Villeneuve caught in the grip of scarlet fever

هكذامن رلإمل

ROB HUGHES



In Jerez

achiavelli lives and breathes. His spirit stalks the hot and Jerez de la Frontera in the guise of conspirators who claim that the European Grand Prix tomorrow is a done deal, a collaboration to smooth Ferrari's path to its first Formula One drivers' title for 18

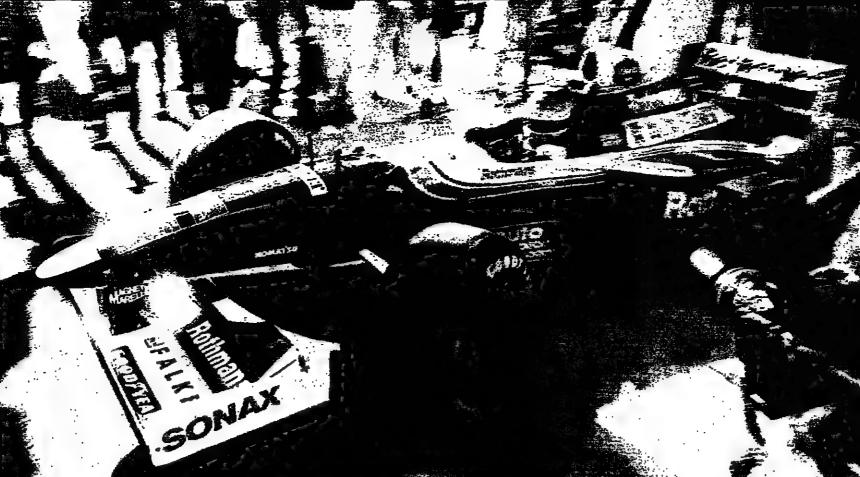
No one has told Jacques Villeneuve. If and when the rumours reach him, as perhaps they are designed to do, to tighten the tension around his bleached temples, he is entitled to observe that conspiracy in motor racing can blow out in a puff of smoke.

Yet the little French-Canadian is in the way of Formula One business. From Bernie Ecclestone and Max Mosley down, those who run the billion-dollar enterprise do not deny that the Ferrari legend is life blood to the turnover. Ferrari is more than a motor: it is an emotion, a spirit, a soul machine that quickens the pulse on a global scale. Tomorrow,

when the race for the first corner is on, the intensity will be felt in the town square of Maranello, near Modena. where Ferrari was conceived 50 years ago, and where cars are still designed

As the green light goes, the cars will be catapulted out of stillness ... past the trackside hospital, then 400 yards into the first hairpin, unimaginatively called Curva Expo 92. Whoever is first into that will be devilishly hard to pass on a tight and bumpy circuit of high-speed corners. The hear will rub away at the tyres, the unrelenting G-forces will erode the concentration of the drivers.

In Maranello, it will be difficult to move and to breathe, also.



Villeneuve leaves the Williams garage for the first free practice at Jerez yesterday, knowing sentiment will demand a Perrari win tomorrow. Photograph: Dusan Vranic

Giancarlo Bertacchini, the mayor of this town of 15,000 people, has ordered a giant outdoor screen, plentiful bottles of Lambrusco the scarlet Ferrari. Rosso of Maranello". He also plans, perhaps presumptuously, to

toll the bells of the town for three ing when the workers go into the factory. Ferrari is an and in the evening when they leave. Unemotion surprisingly, there are Ferrari owners that quickens and aficionados heading by the thouthe pulse'

sand to that town in

mid-Italy. With due respect to Williams, already the constructors' champions again, nothing quite like that will happen in Grove, Oxfordshire, where the British car is

It is not that Frank Williams, the team owner, is cold-blooded. Certainly not that Villeneuve hungers less for the crown than Michael Schumacher. The Italian psyche pulsates through two sports: England has already put a tremor into the heart of italian football and

now, though Williams is powered by a Renault engine, there is fear that British engineering can deny

You see, we are caught up in Enzo Ferrari's passion play. His cars have won 113 grands prix: he

purported never to be the businessman, but he knew that victory was to the cumning. And surely Ferrari knew how rumour-mongering gives an extra frisson to the game. The Formula One bosses actively encourage conspiracy

talk, the spicier the better. Consequently, we are told about the blocking manoeuvres, the possibility of man pushing man and machine beyond the limits. This applies not only to the main rivals, Schumacher and Villeneuve, but



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DIME Did not limber Temerrow: ITV 12.30pm-3.20 (race) FROM JEREZ

DETAILS

as much as man, and no one pretends that if Schumacher was in the Williams the race would be no contest. Williams are still, unarguably, the master engineers. though Ferrari is an enlarging image in the driver's mirrors.

The rivals are feigning noncha-lance, pretending that they will find tomorrow fun, intriguing, but nothing outside their experience. Walking around Jerez are Jody Scheckter and Niki Lauda, the previous two Ferrari drivers to taste the unique thrill; the spiritual sensation of winning in that very

special vehicle. Neither Scheckter nor 'Formula One inside the the head of a racer as consumencourage talk mate as Schumacher. They were racers of their own time, and time, the business and the sport have

moved on at alarming speeds of progression. However, one won-derful motor racer, imperious in the Fifties, did leave a legacy of words that all those on the truck in practice today and in the race tomorrow should head.

I am thinking of Juan Manuel Fangio, the world champion in a Ferrari in 1956, who said: "The art of motor racing is to steer a line as close to the edge of death as possible — but always to err on the side of life."

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

One race to go to decide



£25,000 top prize



correctly predict the first three drivers to cross the finishing line, the race for our £25,000 top prize is still wide open. Printed below are the results of the Japanese Grand Prix which have been adjusted to take account. of Jacques Villeneuve's disqualification in Japan. These results differ from those published last Friday. Heading our leaderboard is A Bradley of Godalming, Surrey. His team, Slickhead 3, scored 649 points at

Suzuka to take his cumulative score in the competition to 11,866 points. Hot on his tail in second position is 1 Dowty of Reigate, Surrey. His team, Dow Jones 2, scored 625 points in Japan

TEAM NAME

Stevie G1

GFO

Adam's Autos

With up to 600 bonus points available in tomorrow's to take his total to 11,854 in the competition. P Wright of European Grand Prix for the managers who Lytham St Anne's wins a trip for two to next year's British GP. His team, Blunderbus, scored 805 points in Japan. S Leason of Uttoxeter (It's the Pits, 802 points) wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game. ... THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score

after tomorrow's Grand Prix will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Mariboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000

will go to two runners-up. Race prizes are a trip for two to next year's British GP and a Sony PlayStation, and CD-Rom game.

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below, shows the revised Fan	in light type after the names tasy Formula One race scores cond column shows the total.

points in the competition so far.

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OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER

THE JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

MANAGER NAME

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WINNERS AND FULL RESULTS WILL APPEAR NEXT SATURDAY

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard teriffs apply to +44 990 calls).

World title rivals go head to head

also to their team-mates. Eddie

Irvine and Heinz-Harald Frentzen Indeed, a fifth name,

that of Raif Schumacher, who

owes his brother plenty after their

bosses

of conspiracy'

collision at Nürburgring,

brought into play.
The fear is diced

with deadliness. The

race might come

down to the nerve in

Villeneuve, because

no one questions Michael Schuma-

cher's control of mind

and matter - he is,

after all, fourth in the

list of all-time grand-

prix winners. Villeneuve, of

course, does not lack heart. In-

deed, some accuse him of having

too much, bordering on addiction

If the race goes the full distance, there will be 69 laps on a circuit

that demands 27 gear changes per lap. That, you would think, is

enough of an adrenalin surge, enough of a demand on the mind

and body of each protagonist,

without faining the flames of

speculation. The stress is on metal

Continued from page 33 do this, we must do that'. But, ultimately, he is confident he can do his job."

Ninth place in free practice, six positions behind Villeneuve, is no real gauge of either man's prospects. Such sessions are mere shadow boxing, a search for the right set-up for a twisty circuit set in the parched, sherry-producing plains of Andalucia. The race will take real shape this afternoon in the qualifying session.

Villeneuve romanticises the chailenge of a one-off lap that allows him close to the tabled "edge", that invisible barrier between bravery and foolishness that preoccupies all rac-ing drivers. Schumacher is more calculating but equally

"It's going to be a question of who keeps his head," Hill, second quickest yesterday, said. They will have eyes only for each other and the one who doesn't get distracted will win. That's difficult, because of the chaos that swiris around you in this situation, but it's a critical part of the job of being a racing driver.

"Jacques doesn't take advice terribly easily and he has already had one trip to the gravel trap. I still feel a Williams is more competitive here than a Ferrari, but it is not as simple as that. So many other factors come into play. "A one-off race for the title is

the most exciting, intriguing and challenging aspect of our sport. It is the ultimate test. Can you handle a showdown for the championship? Can you pull something out of yourself which is better than anything you have ever produced? You don't know until

you have to." Ill-fortune, such as Nigel Mansell's exploding tyre in 1986, is part of the folklore of Formula One, but the inevitable speculation that the title could be decided in an accident has the strength of precedent. Alain Prost, Senna and Schumacher have all become champions in controversial circumstances in the

in Adelaide in 1994, smiled ruefully at the memory of personal injustice, but preferred to illustrate his point with his late father Graham's failure in 1964. He span out under assault by Lorenzo Bandini, whose Ferrari teammate. John Surtees, went on to win the title.

Something always seems to happen when it comes down to the wire," Hill said. "It seems to be too much of a temptation. That's sad beas a sport. It should be about being the best, out-driving all others, not about being sufficiently bullish, or brutish, to

BOXING

Schwer at the crossroads of his career

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN **BOXING CORRESPONDENT** IN ZARAGOZA

BILLY SCHWER should find out here tonight, when he challenges Oscar Garcia, of Spain, for the European title. what his prospects are of coming back into contention for the world championship.

The former British and Commonwealth lightweight champion fell from grace after his surprising defeat by David Tetteh, of Ghana, in 1995. Schwer fought his way back to earn European Boxing Union nomination as challenger and if he lifts the title here, he will become one of the leading

world contenders. Defeat could cause him concern about his career.

Schwer's failure to impress against Alan Temple, of Hartlepool, and Jean Moulun, of France, last year caused many to believe that his hard contests had started taking their toll. But his father, Billy Schwer Sr, said yesterday that those two performances should be put down to lack of motivation caused by domestic and dietary worries.

Schwer is now back to his old self and his manager, Mickey Duff, believes that he will stop Garcia in the middle

SAILING

past ten years.

Defiant Dickson still harbours victory hope

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN CAPE TOWN

CHRIS DICKSON, of New Zealand, the pre-race favour-ite, finally brought Toshiba into Cape Town in sixth position yesterday, three days after the first-leg winner, Paul Cayard, on EF Language. Despite this unexpectedly poor start, though, Dickson seemed confident about his overall chances in the Whithread Round the World

"It is by no means a disaster," he said after his boat had powered her way to the finish line under spinnaker on a glorious morning. The key moment, he added, had been four weeks ago when the fleet leaders were becalmed off. Cape Finisterre.

"On day four we had Silk Cut, Merit Cup and Innovation Kvaerner on the radar and we were all on the favoured starboard tack," he said. They got the new breeze before us and held on to it for two hours, then stayed on the back of it for two days, while we had only two minutes of it." Dickson said he and his frustrated crew finally got going about 36 hours later. long after the boats to the west had got away. From then on the crew managed by Team Dennis Conner was trapped in a running order always

favouring the leaders. "There weren't any passing lanes. We have been paying for some-thing that happened four weeks ago," he said. Dickson's

analysis reinforces the impression that the first leg of this nine-leg marathon may turn out to be unrepresentative of what is to come. Toshiba's arrival was pre-

ceded by that of Chessie Racing, skippered by Mark Fischer, which came in to a rousing welcome after a strong first-leg performance. The campaign's owner, George Collins, expressed delight with his crew's performance, which saw them duelling with Silk Cut for more than a week before the British boat got away in light airs. "We do not have much Whitbread experience but hopefully we are still climbing the learning curve," said Col-lins, who is bringing in the American Admiral's Cup sail-or. Dee Smith, for the next leg.

After Toshiba, America's Challenge, skippered by Ross Field, came in to claim seventh position, followed by another of the fancied boats, Swedish Match, under Gunnar Krantz, who described the past 32 days as "painful".

GOLF

Cold Waugh too fierce for Prosser

SHANI WAUGH, of Australia, completed a flawtess opening round of 67, four under par, in a biting cold wind to lead the field in the 54hole Air France women's Open at Deauville in France yesterday. Waugh finished the day

one stroke ahead of Sally Prosser, of Britain. Alison Nicholas, the US Open champion, and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, who are attempting to overtake Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden, for the No I place in Europe, returned rounds of

It was a relieved Waugh who arrived in France from the US LPGA Tour, where she produced five strong finishes to retain her playing card for next year. "It was a great relief and I can now plan for next

year," she said. Three birdies in four holes from the 12th, after starting her round from the 10th tee. laid the foundations for Waugh. She found sand to drop her solitary shot of the day at the 7th, then completed her day with a birdie from 20

feet at her final hole. ☐ Paul McGinley, of Ireland shared the lead with Michael Campbell, of New Zealand, after adding a round of 67 to his opening 66 in the Oki Pro-Am in Madrid yesterday.

Rugby? Kick it off the park for good

ike the British people's much trumpeted love of animals, which is so often distressingly at odds with matters of public record, I still take a lot of convincing that, as a nation, we actually like football. If we did we wouldn't be so desperate to keep alive the rotting corpse of

Consider this. Of the five schools local to me lucky enough to have playing fields adjoining them, there are an incredible II rugby pitches in operation. Full-sized rugby pitches. What on earth is that all about? That's almost one pitch per fan for this district and it is rooted in an authoritarian yearning of how things should be instead of how they actually are.

The coverage rugby gets and the scandalous time and space in receives at school level does not tally with actual public need or interest and it hasn't done for at least 50 years. How many times must we underline in big black ink that rugby, as part of the curricu-lum, is nothing but a residual tail, like Latin or potato printing. A spiteful middle-class imposition against populist wishes.

Why on earth schools still drag out the big Hs and try to indoctrinate susceptible 11-year olds that Here Is Something Worth Master-ing when rugby matches are so sparsely attended you could hunt caribou in the grandstand beggars belief. The battle's over, boys. Football won. Everyone wants to play football all the time and nobody wants to play rugby. Be big. Swallow it. Trouble is, the rugbyist is as potty and vocal as any Dr Who-craving oddball with access to the internet.

I used to placate frothing rugby maniacs with phrases like "No-



body wants to kill it off, just get it in proportion", but now I have fine-tuned that approach. I do want to kill it off. It has, for me, come to represent The Man. It is the Anti-Sport. It is a selfish, selfserving blip that despite sinister and well-organised pressure groups has been publicly disowned and discredited.

Happily, at the fabulous old dump I attended, we never hadrugby thrust upon us, but echoes of The Rugby Idea could always be found in the nanny-like way, come Christmas, football had to stop and hopeless boss-eyed affairs like shot-put and hop skip and jump had to be included in because, well, we were told, sport wasn't just football. Well no, sport can be

and snooker, but those were never given as options, and in most schools still aren't. What they meant was: "Oh you LIKE sport do you? Well we'll show you it's not all fun and games."

This same nanny/rugby thought also triumphs when all public parks ritually take down the football goals on a designated date in spring. Nobody knows why they do this. One day you we got football goals with teams gagging to get at them — the next they've had the midnight knock and been disappeared. So down go the shirts and bags where the posts used to be and the matches continue as usual. The council stubbornly refuses to bring those posts back until the rulebook says so. It's a bit like removing the lockers from the local lido every November because someone else feels you oughtn't swim in the cold weather.

However, nothing, nothing, says more about a nation living in sporting denial than the II smirking rugby pitches in one corner of South East London, I confess, though, far from being an actual member of Class War, it's true that when I dream these days, it is increasingly of H-shaped Welsh holiday cottages and attractive boxes of Swan Vestas.

Hmmm. I have much more to say on this theme but possibly a lot of readers are looking at me with cold, squinting eyes right now. Besides, in a moment I'm bound to drift over into what I feel is The Real Meaning of Cricket and that might push you right over the

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday



"Oi, ref, what are you up to? City's a big club you know. You can't give a penalty against us"

Face it, City. You're history

when Robert De Niro holds up a bullet to his drunken workmate and says: "You see this, Stanley? This is this. This ain't something else. This is this." Like the rest of the baffled audience I received this information with a sly grin and sophisticated nod but actually had no idea what it meant until this week when I found myself in a screaning match with a Manchester City supporter. For it suddenly occurred to me that this man, like most City supporters and a great number of fans of other so-called "sleeping giants", still thought that he supported a Big Side. That it was only a matter of time and tinkering until they inevitably shook off these minnows they have been boarding with and swanked around The Big League again lighting cigars with five-pound notes.

He really believed that teams such as City and Sunderland or Leeds and Liverpool come to that, ruled by divine right. What has so stirred up the

Maine Road mob recently is not so much that their side might struggle to nick a draw with the Spice Girls but that the whole "division one thing" has become tedious. They're bored with It.
Rather grandly, they have become impatient.

When City were relegated it was with an inson ciant yawn and the certain notion that once they'd spanked a few small-fry bottoms, they would re-turn to the Premiership as sure as night follows day. They, after all, were Manchester City. But chaps. Preston were once Manchester City. So were Blackpool. And Fulham. West Brom and Burnley.

While all glory may be fleeting, it's obscurity that can live forever. Man City, this is not a crisis.

☐ I AM writing this ten minutes before Man Utd play Feyenoord. I predict a 2-2 draw. (Pause). Woohoo! I reckon I placed.

Wimps of the Arctic

DURING the Tromso v Chelses tie the currentator was more than once to be heard might be refused by a Sunday side. For shame. No pitch is too bad for the dedicated amateur. Not 20 minutes from where I type these words is barmy Brockwell Park, home to a selection of pitches so

CRICKET: MIDDLESEX SPINNER FACING RANDOM TESTS DURING 18-MONTH PROBATION PERIOD

sloped that no sensible side sets out to attempt a fixture without crampons, safety harnesses and a crack team of sherpas. I once met a bunch of squaddies who told me of the intense matches staged within the belly of a massive tank transporter flying at 30,000ft. If one side came too close to a winning goal, a

I AM writing this ten minutes before the start of Strasbourg and Liverpool. I predict Liverpool will win 2-1.

friends who, on being faced with a night in the cells, introduced themselves to their fellow internees, went three-a-side and were only cheated of ultimate victory when the bread roll they were using as the ball gave up the good fight and shattered into a thousand pieces. So whatever reasons are used to disguise Chelsea's limp participation in The Trouncing in Tromso, please let us not suppose that we are all such babies.

simple coded bang on the fuselage would send the plane nose-diving

at the crucial moment. I have close

Who are these weirdos?

IF YOU are a subscriber to satellite you'll know that the coverage for a game kicking off at 7.45pm usually begins at three the previous day. This is all well and good and adds to the subtle powder-keg type build-up. However, am I alone in phasing out the breathless Richard Keyes's opening speech — Welcome indeed to Highfield Road where, in just under five hours time, troubled Coventry City will do battle with an out-of-sorts Southampton and I'm delighted to say our guests, Kevin Moran and Brian Kilcline, will be with us every step of the way!" - in order to peer across his blazered shoulder at the smattering of lunatics who are in the ground aiready?

As Butch Cassidy was fond of saying: "Who are those guys?" Who, in their right mind gets to a football ground with hours to spare? Have they not pubs to go to? Yet there they are. And the most curious part of all is that they never seem to be claiming some plum spot either. They will perch up to the left or apologetically at the back of the family enclosure.

So who are they? One reason-able explanation is that they are simply warm bodies pressed into service by Sky in order to convince us that here is a very hot ticket indeed. The only other argument I'll accept is that they are harmless dummies left over from that peculiar era when Arsenal were so squeamish about building work in progress at Highbury that they painted a hideous mural at one end of the ground to create the illusion that it was full. It's well documented that many clubs lobbied for the introduction of the more docile imaginary spectator over the troublesome flesh and blood real thing. Perhaps it is this influence that flickers on today. glimpsed only by the keen-eyed during Sky's Feast of Football.

☐ I AM writing this ten minutes before Chelsea play Tromso. I foresee the result but, to be honest, I'd sooner suck on Ken Bates's beard than betray my lifelong abhorrence of these showbiz kids and play some psychic part in their victory. (Pause). You know what? I love football . . .

Helen and Tim, best of the bunch

TODAY far and away the airwaves' best football show celebrates its 50th edition. It is Soccer AM on Sky Sports 2, which has been a quiet riot for some time now while more post-modern and testosteroney vehicles have been grabbing the laddish attention. There are no better spots anywhere in sports broadcasting than Third Eye. Showboating and Pub Commentary, and Helen

Chamberlain and Tim Lovejoy, who present the show, are the best TV pairing since Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin fronted The Big Breakfast. Quite why the rest of the "straighter" football

shows at the station haven't embraced and trumpeted these two and their approach is deeply suspi-cious. Serve them right if they jump ship and rejuvenate the World Cup on ITV.

Drugs verdict frees Tufnell for

Big pitch for mass appeal

popularise itself with the masses (Simon Wilde writes). Next year, from March to and an articulated truck containing three portable pitches and equipment is to tour the country, making two-day stops at seaside resorts, shopping centres and county shows in an attempt to reach

The England and Wales

Cricket Board (ECB) hopes to raise the game's profile with encouraged to seek further involvement. The roadshow, which will be funded by the board's recent sponsorshipdeal with Vodaphone, plans to visit as many of the ECB's 38 member counties as possible and work with their youth development officers.

Clarke took his All England XI around the Midlands and the North in the 1840s. It led to the birth of the county Darren Gough helped out as the roadshow spent the first

of four days at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, yesterday. This is part of the build-up to the 1999 World Cup," he said. If we get people interested, they can help us win it and they can start to play themselves."

England tour of West Indies

his England career yesterday by persuading a disciplinary hearing at Lords that his failure to take a routine drugs test last month was neither conscious nor calculating. He did not escape punishment but probation rather than suspended, leaving him free to tour West Indies in the new

randomly for a test during Middlesex's final championthin match of the season, at Chelmsford, was fined £1,000 and must pay £250 towards the costs of the hearing. He is also subject to an 18-month ban, suspended on condition that he undertakes drugs tests at unspecified times both later this year and during 1998. He has 14 days to appeal, which seems an improbable con-

PHILIP TUPNELL preserved

It could be thought that Tumell has escaped lightly. There will doubtless be suspicions of a convenient leniency in the national cause. This: however, was not a straightforward case and it came down to the judgment of a fiveman panel that one of England's renowned cricketers had not been trying to avoid detection: indeed, that his actions were not deliberate at

This was not the finest hour

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The claims of the new governing body that it rules openly sat uncomfortably with the presentation of a press conference by a single officer, the chief executive, Tim Lamb, who pre-empted questions with the disclaimer that he had no knowledge of the detailed proceedings.

It would seem, however, that Tufnell related that he had been unable to produce a satisfactory urine sample dur-

ing the lunch interval on the relevant day and that, preoccupied by an eye infection, he had simply forgotton to return at the close of play. Short of concluding that he was lying, the panel had little option but to impose something short of the maximum sentence, which is as severe for avoiding a drugs test as for failing it. Tufnell, who was accompa-

nied by his Middlesex captain, Mark Ramprakash, faced four charges of breaching the anti-doping regulations and



Turnell heads for the Grace Gates at Lord's after receiving the decision of the disciplinary panel

Sussex captaincy admitted to two. However, he strongly denied the other two. which related to his awareness

and motivation in avoiding

the tests, and the panel dis-

in the absence of the chair

man of the panel, Gerard

Elias, Lamb was left to grope

his way through the judgment

but insisted there had been no

thought given to Tufnell's

England commitments, "The

integrity of the regulations is

more important than selection

Lamb added: "It is accepted

for a national side," he said .

by all concerned that the

player was distinctly unwell

on the day and he said his

mind was in a turmoil. He

argued that he forgot to take

the test and the panel had to

decide whether to accept this.

Each case of this nature has to

be treated on its merits and we

severity of the punishment

Lamb admitted that the

episode has raised questions

about the efficiency of the

ised: "We shall have to tighten

them up to ensure this cannot

happen again." But despite

four drugs cases coming to

jurisdiction in the past 18

months, he remains confident

that cricket does not have a

problem, for all 140 players

who submitted to the proce-

dure this year tested negative.

handed down."

missed these charges.

BY IVO TENNANT

Adams offered

CHRIS ADAMS, the Derby-shire batsman who is considering approaches from other counties, has been offered the captaincy of Sussex. According to his agent, Jonathan Barnett, he is likely to become the highest paid Englandqualified cricketer in the Barnett, who represents a

number of high-profile cricketers, is appealing against Derbyshire's registration of Adams as a list one player. which limits his options. Hence no decision will be reached over his future until the hearing at Lord's on November II. Barnett is also threatening the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) with legal action if Adams's status is not changed. "Since should be able to move coun-

ties freely," he said. We have taken the advice of counsel and there is a very good chance we will resort to the law if Chris does not become a list two player. His main motivation in wanting to leave Derbyshire is not money but to play for England."

Two counties have offered Adams, who has yet to play Test cricket, a salary of almost £100,000, A third, Kent, do not intend matching that, but Derek Ufton, the chairman of

their cricket committee, remains hopeful of signing him. Sussex are the only county to offer him the captaincy. If Shane Warne, the Australia leg spinner, had joined them, Adams would have become either captain, in succession to Peter Moores, or vice-captain.

Chris is likely to be earning a basic salary of around £20,000-£30,000 more than any other English cricketer." Barnett said. "As an agent, l would encourage him to go for the best offer, but he may well not do so as he wants to join the county that gives him the best opportunity of playing Test cricket. The approach by Sussex is an interesting extra consideration." Tony Pigott, the Sussex chief

executive, was cautious when asked whether he expected Adams to join the county. You do not know what can happen," he said. "We have talked to Chris but clearly there are still several counties

Hugh Morris, 34, the Glamorgan opening batsman, was yesterday appointed the new technical director of the ECB. He will take up his post on November 3, succeeding Micky Stewart, who is due to retire as director of coaching and excellence at the end of the

Kirsten thwarts **Pakistan**

GARY KIRSTEN became the his bat through a Test innings yesterday as he led a sterling recovery from 98 for seven or the opening day of the third and final Test against Pakistan in Faisalabad. South Africa reached 239

thanks to Kirten's century and a pugnacious 81 from Pai Symcox, the spin bowler, with whom he added 124 for the eighth wicket. Pakistan then lost both opening batsmen, Saeed Anwar and Ali Naqvi, while scoring 41 In reply. Kirsten, 30, finished with

exactly 100, his fifth Test century. "It is highly satisfying for me and the best thing is that I saved my team," he said. His stand with Symcox was a record for the eighth wicket against Pakistan in all Tests, beating the 120-run partnership between Madan Lal and Syed Kirmani, of India, at the same ground in 1983. Kirsten hit 15 fours in an innings, which lasted exactly five hours.

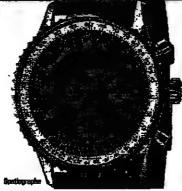
South Africa, who were able to recall Allan Donald and David Richardson, lost seven wickets in the first session of the day after Hansie Cronje won the toss. However, the last three wickets added 141, Symcox hitting nine fours and two sixes in a bold innings in which he faced only 83 balls.

Scoreboard, page 41

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

هكذامن رلامل

Referees taken to task by Wenger

By MATT DICKINSON

DENNIS BERGKAMP bids farewll to the FA Carling Premiership for more than a month tomorrow, but Arsene Wenger has ensured that his Dutch striker will not be going quietly. Wenger, the Arsenal man-

ager, is still enraged at the three-match suspension his premier performer has incurred after five bookings this season, and he left no doubt yesterday where he believes the blame lies. "Dennis has never had this problem before," he said. "Sometimes you have the feeling that he is a trophy now for referees. Who would have bet that after eleven games Dennis Bergkamp would have been suspended with five yellow cards?

"Is he the nasty player of the league? I just don't know how it has happened. He is not an angel. He deserved one or two bookings, but certainly not all of them and not the one at Crystal Palace last week. Sometimes he does not get the protection with tackles from behind and defenders pulling on his shirt. Maybe it is because he complains to referees too much about that and they give him a yellow card when he does not deserve it. I will talk to him about it when he has the break."

The international break in the middle of next month means that Bergkamp will sign off at home to Aston Villa tomorrow and then not be seen in Premiership action until November 30, in the home game against Liverpool, aithough he may be called up in the Coca-Cola Cup.

Arsenal appear half the side without him, and maintaining the leadership of the Premiership will not be easy as he misses games against Derby County, Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday. Bergkamp has scored ten goals in eleven league games this season, and his absence for the Uefa Cup first-round. first-leg encounter with PAOK Salonika, when Wenger's side lost 1-0, exposed Arsenal's lack of attacking options when they are without hlm.

"They seem prepared to put limbs and livelihoods at risk. It is plain that the match should not have started"



Chelsea get drift of Uefa's whim

something green on the pitch," Rund Gullit said after the fiasco of Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup match in northern Norway on Thursday. And the fact of the matter was that one saw scarcely any green at all, unless one raised one's eyes above both pitch and terraces to look at the majestic fir trees.

There has been some criticism of the way that Chelsea played in such outrageous circumstances. A schadenfreude, one might say: giant-killers are always popular in cup competitions, whether they be the Waisali team of 1933 that humbled mighty Arsenal or the Tromso team that beat Chelsea 3-2 and could easily have doubted their score. Arsenal, all those years

ago, could present the excuse of a weakened team and an indulgent referee. Chelsea's extenuation was some-what more solid. It was plain that the game should never have started and plainer still from half-time



onwards, when the snow came down, that the referee should have abandoned

proceedings.
"I asked the Uefa man."
Gullit, the Cheisea playerhe think about it. He said: 'I can understand your point of view, but the game has to go on because of the busy schedule of Uefa." This, with its implica-

tions, was a scandalous re sponse. As one Who has spent years trying, with a good deal of obstruction from Uefa, to unravel the murky manoeuvres of Italian clubs in European football, I have never had much faith in the European governing body. Money talks, but now it has grown so cacophonous that there is no chance of anyone of anything else being heard.

There was a significant moment in the second half on Thursday when Celestine Babayaro, Chelsea's preco-cious Nigerian left back, slipped after making a challenge and fell awkwardly on the snow. There was every possibility that he had hurt himself badly. After all, the worst injuries, as Alan Shearer knows only too well, often occur in the most ba-

nal dromstanos: In the event, Babayaro, who had never soen snow in his life, was able to get up and play on. But a pitch like this, in weather like that, constitutes a serious risk to limbs.

"Like I said, I am a gtry who likes to play football, but to play football in normal circumstances." Gullit said "It's very difficult to get into the right mood. We were of the ball, the only thing was that it was difficult to get through."

Tromso did not find it difficult at all. True, they scored their third goal when Chelsea were trying to replace Leboeuf with Myers, leaving them a man short





made a myriad of chances several of which were missed by their burly, blond centre forward. Lange. He, with his fellow hefty blond, Aarst, gave Chelsea's faltering defence a terri-

ble testing. The way to play in such

mental and, if you had big men up front to bang the ball long and swiftly upfield to them — bang it so that they could chase it, rather than be obliged to turn, as the Chelsen attackers to often were, on the shocking

surface. Conditions certainly deteriorated in the second half. As Gullit said: "The second obstacle (the pitch apart) was we played against the wind, against the snow. It gets into your eyes. You can't see nothing, and the ball. didn't bounce. It was nothing to do with football."

It certainly was not and the whole picture comes into perspective when you refiect on how poorly Tromso had been doing until this game, losing five out of their previous seven matrices relegation play-off. It is ironic indeed that the first leg, next Sunday, will take place in an indoor stadium.

Did some Chelsea players give a great deal less than others? Was the team Immensely fortunate to be saved from humiliation by

ic goals? The answer could well be positive, but again, even in the first half, the muddy parody of a pitch scarcely encouraged art-ists of the likes of Gianfranco Zola and Roberto di

Vialli, by contrast, hav-ing done little, came suddenly and vibrantly to life in the closing minutes. Each of his goals came after a gem of a solo run, but with character istic modesty he said that he had been helped by the mud, which had restricted the movement of the defenders apposing him.

t is to be hoped that Cheisez enter an official protest with Uefa at having been forced to play in such circumstances. How fortunate and unexpected that the Uefa official game away with his remarks to Gullit.

If all that matters now is money, if players' limbs and livelihoods are to be put at risk, then it is time that members of Uefa, whether they be clubs or national associations, rose up and proclaimed their disgust.

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Sheridan realises dream the second time around

few days away from the next match but people mill all around holding carrier bags bulging with Manchester United paraphernalia.

Darren Sheridan, shoulders rolling, walks through the throng unnoticed. He is a short, stocky man with an unpretentious manner and an unpretentious haircut, one of those that is the preserve of barbers of a certain age who smoke while they work, cough into the back of your neck and have more opinions than they do clean combs.

I'm playing at Old Trafford on Saturday," Sheridan tells his coughing coiffeur. "Aye, and I'm singing with Frank Sinatra the weekend after next," is the retort. "It's a dream come true, isn't it?" Sheridan says, for the third time in ten minutes. Footballers make state-

ments like that all the time. Everything is a dream come true - the last goal, the next game, the impending transfer, the sponsorship deal with Reebok. The difference is that this is the real thing. A Mancunian and a Manchester United supporter, he will take his place in the Barnsley team against United at Old Trafford today. If he looks more like a postman, baker, warehouseman or labourer than he does a footballer, it is no coincidence because, at various times, he was all of those until a few years ago.

Like his older brother, John, Sheridan was an apprentice footballer with Leeds United. While John went on to play regularly for Leeds and later with Sheffield Wednesday and Bolton Wanderers, Darren was released at 18 by Billy Bremner, then the Leeds manager. "I thought that was the end of it," Sheridan said. "I



Sheridan lines up "alongside" his Old Trafford heroes

ing this loaf

around my head

on the terraces.

My mam wasn't

happy when I

got back!" he

said. Seven

years after his

rejection by

Leeds, Sheridan

believed it when was told I wasn't good enough. John was always saying I could make it in football, but I suppose I just gave up." After a stint playing for a pub team in Streeford, Sheridan was picked up by Winsford United, of the UniBond. League. where he spent four

finally became a professional footballer when he was offered a contract by Barnsley 1993. He had to eave . seasons. During Dannimac that period he warehouse in held various Trafford Park Manchester, jobs on short contracts and where .

watched Manchester United worked in stock control. He as often as possible. On one has been a fixture in midfield occasion he was out of work for the past three seasons, and offered to call at the shops where his combative, scurryfor bread and milk for his ing approach has formed a mother. On his way he met protective vanguard for Barnsley's more expansive play. The opponent in his path two friends about to board a train to London for a United game against Arsenal. "I got today is likely to be David £60 out of the bank and went Beckham, and the contrast with them. I ended up swingcould not be greater. While

Beckham dates a Spice Girl Sheridan lives modestly with-in a mile of Old Trafford with his girlfriend, Jannette, and their two young daughters. Beckham has patronage

from pan-global companies while Sheridan is happy that a local ironmonger sponsors his kit. Beckham's annual income will be at least 15 times greater than Sheridan's. They will be equals for just 90 minutes on the pitch today.

Sheridan describes himself as a "biter around the ankles" player and he will be doing just that against United. don't feel out of place at all. me. I love it. I think we've got to get nastier as a team, if you know what I mean. There are some very clever players in the league and we've got to get among them. I think we've been showing them too much respect," he said.

ff the pitch, Sheridan is notoriously laidback, to the point of not knowing the surname of some of his team-mates. "I couldn't say half of the names of the foreign lads even if I could remember," he said, "I just say: 'Hey, give me the ball, and they usually do." He also has problems with the Yorkshire dialect spoken in Barnsley. "It cracks me up," he said. "They come up to me and tell me I'm a chuffin' good

player or a reet good 'un. He smiles constantly, as if, between speaking, he is telling himself private jokes. It is not an expression of smugness; in fact, is quite endearing. "Wouldn't you be smiling?" he asks. "One minute I'm in a warehouse working all hours. and now I'm about to play at Old Trafford. It's a dream come true, isn't it?" There he

goes again. MARK HODKINSON

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Villain turns hero once more

It is 16 months since that penalty and Gareth Southgate has

emerged a stronger character

t was hard to take every-thing in when the final whistle blew on that sultry night in Rome. Glenn Hoddle, John Gorman and a tight cluster of England staff were off the bench and dancing an impromptu ring a ring-a-roses and, away to the left, David Beckham, Paul Ince and Paul Gascoigne stood triumphantly in a line, arms around each other's shoulders. saluting the England fans.

When they turned and walked back towards the mélée in the centre of the pitch, the eye followed them and noved around that teeming, amorphous mass of celebration. Then, suddenly, like a film camera that whizzes back to something in a blur, everyone's gaze flicked back to a flurry of action in the corner where the trio had been an instant before.

This time, it was Gareth Southgate who stood before the fans. He was alone with his joy, no one around him. but for once, this man, who has for so long epitomised grace under pressure, who treated the trauma of his penalty shoot-out miss against Germany in the semi-finals of Euro 96 with candour and rare dignity, threw composure to the winds. He was acting like a man who had had a great weight lifted from his shoulders, pumping the air wildly with his right fist.

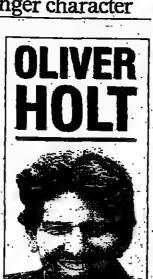
Everyone felt good for Southgate that night. He is one of the most respected players in the game, a man who lives by a code of common courtesy off the pitch and honest, skilful endeavour on it. Sometimes in our world," he said, "that is seen as being an outstanding quality, but to me it should just be accepted.". Sometimes, it seems as if he

is almost too good to be true. His transparent sincerity makes one lear for him, almost as though he is too vulnerable, too sensible, too sensitive to survive in football's domain of flying elbows, after what he has been through, though, there has to be a steel core. There are other

hen I am with a

group of lads," he said, "I am of them. I am the first, if we are going out, to go and have a drink with the boys and make an idiot of myself as much as the next man. But there is a time and a place for that and we have got a responsibility to conduct ourselves in the right manner at the right time. At the right time, though, you have got to unwind because, blimey, it would be a dull life if you didn't." If anyone deserved a little unwinding on that night in Rome, it was Southgate, Gradually, the happiness of repeated successes are erasing the pain of the penalty miss. Southgate has not yet been

ime ard



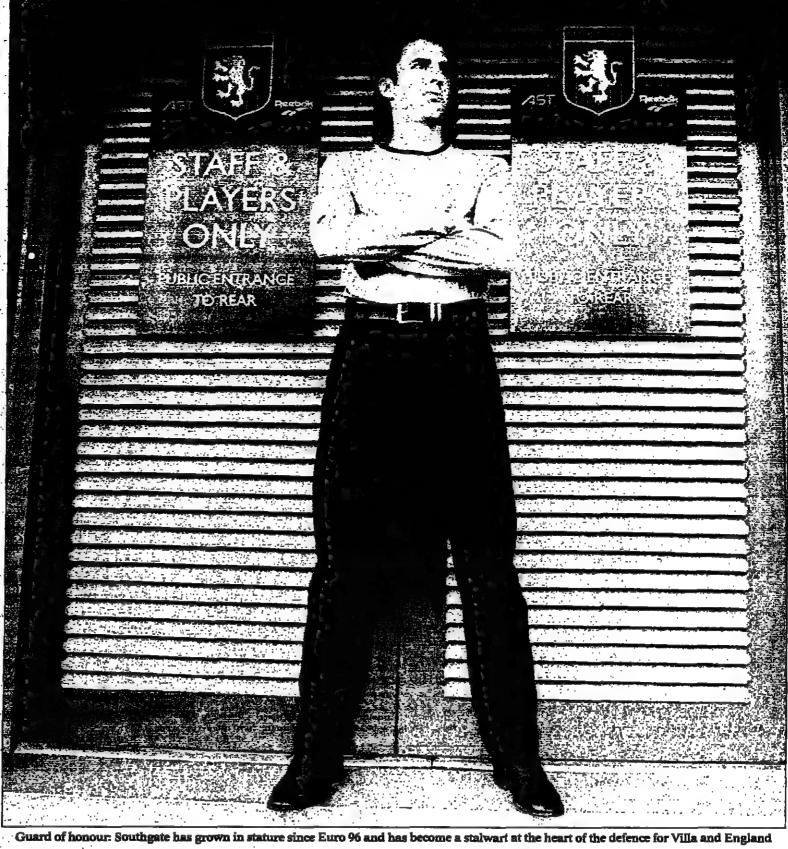
afforded the clean shot at redemption that Stuart Pearce was given against Spain in Euro 96, when he wiped away the memory of his saved penalty against Germany in the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup with an emphatic spot-kick. Pearce's histrionic reaction showed just how much his earlier failure had been festering inside him.

couch at Aston Villa's training ground to the east of Birmingham yesterday, Southgate wore the air of a man who is at last beginning to believe that he has completed his atone-ment. His ain, anyway, was merely that he had the courage to take that sixth penalty when others did not, but he has suffered for it nonetheless.

He still gets the odd poisoned letter from poisoned minds that still harbour misplaced grudges but, in the 16 months since Euro 96, Southgate has proved himself, then proved himself- again and again. He was one of En-gland's best players in the important victory over Poland in Katowice in May and turned in a flawless performance when it really mattered

Last week, the Villa captain was the rock on which Athletic Bilbao foundered in the first leg of their Uefa Cup secondround tie and tomorrow he will stand at the heart of the Villa defence as it tries to stop Ian Wright and Dennis Bergkamp consolidating Arsenal's position at the head of the EA Carling Premiership. The challenges are coming thick and fast and Southgate has met them all. The future, once again, is more important than

the past.
"For a spell, something like the penalty miss does knock you. Southgate said, "but you have to decide whether you have worked hard all your life to then let one incident that · was not within the course of a normal game of football destroy you, or whether you are going to bounce back and say: I have not worked my socks off for nine years to let that ruin everything.



"After a while, I sat back and decided I was not going to let that happen and that I was going to be single-minded enough to block out any of the negative feelings that people have shown towards me. I still get the occasional letter, but they do not leave their address on it. It is just a case of you pick it up, you see the start of it, then you just rip it up and throw it in the bin.

'I suppose time is a healer. Nothing will ever wipe it away completely because every time there is an article about you, it is: 'Gareth Southgate, whose penalty blah, blah, blah ...' There is nothing I can do about that. But since that has happened, I have been in the side that qualified for the

World Cup, I played all but one of the qualifying games and I played when we won the tournament in France in the summer. So I could not have been involved in any more

Possibly there was a sense of catharsis on that night in Italy. You do yearn for a moment that will symbolise success. You dream of scoring the winning goal. But I played as well as anybody in Poland. which was a fantastic result, and I played in Italy and we managed to keep a clean sheet. Sure, you dream of doing something at the same level as the penalty, but of a positive

"It is great to have the adulation of the crowd, but

trigger and then explained: "It was a tough but reasoned decision." Absolutely.

Grim reminder

Followers of Athletic Bilbao

Aston Villa's opponents in the

Uefa Cup second round, pro-

vided a heart-warming con-clusion to the first leg of the tie, which finished 0-0, in the San

Mames Stadium on Tuesday

night. Despite frustration at

their side's inability to score,

band of Villa fans and demon-

strated that inter-club rivalry can be conducted in a pleasant and civilised manner. How-

ever, lurking beneath the sur-

face was a reminder of the

troubles that still afflict Bil-

bao. ETA, the Basque separat-

ist movement, is believed to

have strong links with the IRA

in Ireland and an Irish

tricolour hung from a guard

rail in the San Mames. It bore

a familiar message: "We've

STRANGE BUT TRUE:

Manchester City have five

pairs of players with the same

surname — the Whitleys, Morleys, Fentons, Browns

not gone away, you know."

applauded the small

having the respect of your team-mates and of the management and them being happy with the job you have done is enough praise.

eople do remember I the penalty because it is the first thing they mention in conversation. I can't do anything about that. I must just try to achieve as much as I can in my career and hope that it will be a reasonably insignificant part of it in the end.' That, indeed, is the way

things seem to be shaping up. With all his first-choice defenders fit, Hoddle chose Southgate above others for the match against Italy, and it now seems certain, barring

injury, that he will be in the squad for the World Cup finals next summer.

At 6ft, he is one of the

smaller central defenders. He remembers turning up for his first England training session and seeking reassurance from Terry Venables, then the national team coach, that his height would not be a problem. Twenty-one caps later, he knows. "I just have to try to use my brain and try to pinch things in front or behind bigger men." Southgate said. "i have to try to read things a

He has got so good at it, has become such an integral part of the England set-up, that Hoddle even encouraged him in a little subterfuge before the

game in Rome. Southgate had passed a fitness test on a thigh injury the day before the game, but the England coach encouraged him to appear lacklustre in the final open training session because it might encourage the Italians to think that he was not fit and

confuse their planning.

"It was actually fairly genuine." Southgate said, "because I had been suffering with the injury all week. I could not quite see the Italians thinking: 'Oh my God, Southgate's not playing, we're in,' but it did no harm. Still, the Royal Shakespeare Company have not been on yet." Wise people, the RSC: they can spot a man who does not need to hide behind a

Sillett in trouble after flare-up

PORTSMOUTH'S fall from grace — from fourth place in the Nationwide League first division in August, to 23rd before the game against Hud-dersfield Town this afternoon - has been accompanied by a plethora of disciplinary prob lems. They have had four players sent off this season and, yesterday, Neil Sillett, their physiotherapist, was charged with misconduct by the Football Association.

Sillett ran on to the pitch during the game against **Bradford City at Fratton Park** on Tuesday to treat Fitzroy Simpson, the Portsmouth midfield player, who had been fouled. However, he appeared to become involved in confrontations with Darren Moore, the Bradford player, and Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager.

Kamara has also been charged with misconduct. They have 14 days to respond to the charge and request a personal hearing," an FA

Portsmouth, who have a £10,000 suspended fine hanging over them after previous misdemeanours, will at least be relieved that they will not face charges arising from the incident

Huddersfield are not going too well, either - they are the only club below Portsmouth - and Peter Jackson, their new manager, has received a short, sharp lesson in how to deal, and how not to, in the transfer market. Jackson thought he had signed up Michael Evans, the Southampton striker, for £750,000 but was gazumped by Ray Harford, the West Bromwich

Albion manager.
"Next time. I think I'll play my cards closer to my chest." Jackson said, "We made a big bid for Michael earlier in the week but since then, West Brom did the same and he decided to go there." Harford needed Evans to

replace Paul Peschisolido, who yesterday joined Fulham, the second division side. for a fee of £1.1 million. It takes the spending of Kevin Keegan, Fulham's chief operating officer, to £1.6 million since he and Ray Wilkins, the manager, took over at Craven Cottage last month. "This is a sensible signing."

Keegan said, "but don't expect us to spend silly money because we won't. This is the right player at exactly the right price."
Stockport County have also

broken their transfer record, albeit more modestly, with the capture of Paul Cook, the Tranmere Rovers midfield player, for £250,000.

Another manager in the FA's bad books yesterday was Nigel Spackman, who takes his unbeaten Sheffield United side to play West Bromwich at The Hawthoms today. He has been charged with misconduct after allegedly making remarks to the referee after the 2-2 draw at home to Queens Park Rangers on

Villa declare war on tipsy French fish

Bordeaux supporters to Villa Park with a message, in French, in the match pro-gramme for their Uefa Cup first-round, second-leg match. It was an admirable effort spoilt only by a slight hiccup in the translation of the warning not to bring anything alcoholic into the ground. The word "boissons" (drinks) had become "poissons" (fish). which caused much mirth among the Bordeaux faithful - the most fanatical of which, rather appropriately, are nicknamed the "Piranhas". Villa security chiefs later reported that six bream, four roach and eight pike, in varying states of Stupor, were cunfiscated at the

Ageing Ranger

Simon Barker, the Queens Park Rangers midfield player, was delighted to receive a call to appear on a panel of experts on a television football show. As he is approaching the twilight stage of his career,

he should be selected for such an honour. However, he was less enamoured when he discovered the topic for conversa-"Players Getting

Faux pas No I

Liverpool's French farce apparently developed long before the first whistle of their Uefa Cup second-round, firstleg match in Strasbourg on Tuesday, in which they turn- nickname lives on.

French magazine interview that was published on the day of the game, David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, hardly endeared himself to the locals with his initial response to the question-and-answer article. "What do you know about Strasbourg?" A: "It begins with the letter 'S'. I thought it was in Germany." The latter observation is akin to calling a

bled to a 3-0 defeat. In a

Scotsman English . . . no won-

der the "Calamity James"

SWINDON TOWN may have bowed out of the FA Youth Cup on Wednesday but they were not too downhearted. Their 3-2 defeat against "Harchester United" was staged only for the benefit of television - namely Dream Team, the 64-episode satellite soap - and defeat

had been written into the script.

Filming took place at the Bushey Studios near Watford. "It was a really enjoyable day out," Tommy Wheeldon, the Swindon youth team manager, said. Wheeldon's son. Thomas Jr., the former Swindon youth captain but now bitpart actor and Harchester United superstar, set up the deal. "I even accepted a bung from a Dream Team director. which will pay for our Christmas dinner," Wheeldon Sr said. "But don't tell the FA."



appoint a part-time manager to succeed Bryan Hamilton, who was dismissed on Thurs-day (Russell Kempson writes). Speculation that it might be Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, coincided with a drop of lop in the Leicester shares, which were floated on the Stock Market yesterday. from the opening trading price of £1.10.

Jim Boyce, the president of the Irish Football Association. said: "If a part-time appointment is the right way forward. then we will do that. I would prefer a full-time manager but we won't appoint someone full-time if a part-time candidate is better.

O'Neill reacted with caution and characteristic humour. "I'm stunned that I can have an effect on the Stock Market but i would rather not make any comment on the situation at this stage," he said. "I don't know the ins and outs of what would be involved."

Other contenders for the job include Jimmy Nicholl, the Raith Rovers manager, Danny Wilson, of Barnsley, Sammy McIlroy, of Macclesfield Town, and Jimmy Quinn, the Peterborough United striker and former Read-

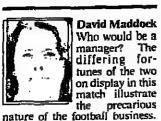
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FOOTBALL SATURDAY





LIVERPOOL **DERBY COUNTY** Tpday, 3.0 (sold out)



In the red corner, Roy Evans, underwhelming and under pressure. Defeat here is a real possibility after a rotten week. and would no doubt solicit yet more headlines wondering about the location of his P45. In the white corner is Jim

Smith, thrust into the limelight after what seems a lifetime of lurking in the management twilight. Who would have thought, as his bus pass approaches, that he would receive the recognition he has always deserved.

Smith knows all about failure; his time at Newcastle United, for instance, prepared him for everything the management game could throw at him, but the vagaries of this business still provide amusement. Roy took his side to within a whisker of the title and the semi-final of a European competition, and still people question him," he laughed. "God knows what

they'll make of my record."
The problem for Evans is that the time has arrived for tangible success in the form of trophies. It

is perception, as much as anything, that has worked against him. As well as they played before the past week, no one -not least the Liverpool supporters - can see his present team winning the league.

It may be that some of his players cannot see it either and that would lead to an exodus potentially far more damaging than recent results. The solution? We may receive some clues this afternoon. Evans knows that he must strengthen his defence, but until the cavalry arrives, he must tinker once more with a back line that could not stop a watch. Ruddock is likely to be stood down, along with McAteer and possibly even that figure straight out of It's a Knockow, Stig Inge Bjornebye.

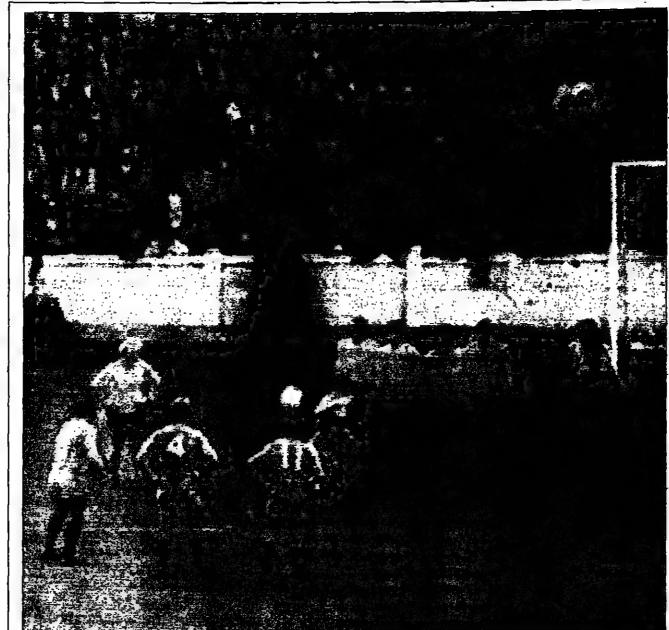
Expect more changes, with Riedle and possibly Thomas set to return, and Redknapp rested. Redknapp performed well within the confines of a dismal performance in France, and he will be looking closely at develcontents in the next few weeks. given impending contract talks.

As for Derby, well they will

not want to tinker with a winning formula. Victory in midweek would have launched them into the nose-bleed territory of fourth place, and Smith sees no reason why it should not continue. "Derby are becoming a side to be reckoned with", was his calm, and increasingly accurate assertion.

LIVERPOOL, (probable, 4-4-2): D James — R Jones, M Winght, B T Kvarme, S Harkness — S McManarian, M Thomas, P Ince, O Leonhardson — K Radol, R Fowler, DERBY COUNTY (probable; 3-4-3): M Pom — G Rowelt, C Dailty, J Laursen — L Carsley, A Aganovic, P Trollope, C Powell — D Stumdge, F Balance, P Wandhope

■ TELEVISION: Today: Metch of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended PREDICTION: Sorry Roy, Derby



Heel we go: Willie Carr's flick is in the air and Ernie Hunt is poised to volley one of the most memorable goals of the 70s

ALIVE AND FLICKING

We couldn't let Coverity v Everton pass today without paying homage to the match 27 years ago when Willie Carr and Emie Hunt invented the sexiest free kick of all time. Here are 11 more strange, marriorable and just plain bizarre goals.

Blackburn keeper, Tim Flowers, regretted marking the centre of his goal with a divot when Stan Collymore's harmless shot pitched Shane Werne-like and looped into the net.

Who got the final touch for Arsenal's equaliser against Liverpool in the 1971 FA Cup Final? Eddie Kelly and George Graham debate it to this day.

Zico thought he had headed a last-minute winner for Brazil against Sweden in the 1978 World Cup. Clive Thomas, however, had other ideas.

Giantuca Vialit's backside claimed the credit for Chelsea's opening goal in Bratislava recently.

Pat Jennings surprised Alex Stepney, silenced Old Trafford and bemused Kenneth Wolstenholme

with his drop-kick goal in the 1967 Charity Shield. Diego Maradona took a hand in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final between England and Argentine.

7, Leads keeper, Gary Sprake, threw the ball into his own net at Antield in 1967. The Kop kept a digrafied allence.

Andy Dibble, then with Manchester City, was humiliated when Gary Crosby, of Nottingham Forest, headed the ball but of his hand and scored.

Net Lotthouse used slightly robust methods to put the ball, and Manchester United keeper Harry Gregg, into the net in the 1958 Cup Final.

10. The goal that ween't but was. Alan Hudson's anot for Chelsea against ipswich in 1970 hit the stanction outside the net.

The goal that was but wasn't. Clive Allen's shot for Palace at Coventry in 1980 obviously did go in, but the ref saw it differently.

Compiled by Richard Whitehead Therite to Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Fload, London WC2H OJG, Tel: 0171-940 9604.





NEWCASTLE UNITED BLACKBURN ROVERS Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Ivo Tennant There is no respite for Ken-Dalglish. Three days after losing to PSV Eindhoven in the

Champions' League. Newcastle United face his resurgent former club, Blackburn Rovers, who are in second place in the FA Carling Premiership, Mental as much as physical resilience will need to be to the fore.

Only this week, Birmingham City took the view that Steve Bruce, at 36, should no longer be asked to play two matches a week. Jan Rush. who is the same age, led the Newcastle attack on his own last Wednesday, as he did against Leeds United the previous weekend, and he is likely to have to do so again today.

Tomasson will play just behind him. In addition to their long-standing injury problems. Newcastle will have to make do without Given, the former Blackburn goalkeeper, who is due to take part in Ireland's World Cup qualifying match against Belgrum next week.

The likelihood is that Dalglish will choose Hislop ahead of Smicek, as he did against Hull City recently. If he does, Smicek will in all probability look to leave the dub.

As for Blackburn, it is exactly a year since, under the management of Ray Harford, they were bottom of the Premiership and without a victory. Several of their players. of course, know Dalglish's methods and his psychology all roo well. In Roy Hodgson, Blackburn have a manager whom Stuart Ripley calls "a footballing scientist.

Hodgson's tactic of reverting to two wingers is succeeding. Duff, a protégé of Dalglish's, is performing well on the left, as is Ripley on the right. He showed considerable flair in the match against Southampton last Saturday and his tussle with John Beresford this afternoon could decide the outcome.

Wilcox is injured, but Sherwood and Sutton, who is looking to attract Glenn Hoddle's attention, are also in excellent form. A Blackburn victory is the most feasible result.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable 4-4-2) S Histop — S Watten, D Persock, S Howey, I Sensitive — N. Gulestons R Loe D Bathy, W Earton — JD Tormasson, I Rush BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2) ; Routes — C Cotemas S Henchoz, C Hordry, G Croff — S Rodey, T Shorwood L Bohren D Dull — N. Gallacher C Surfon Reference J Winter

TFLEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights PREDICTION: Blackburn to win 1-0 or 2-1



~

Hodkinson Spiritual assis tance was called upon this week it helped Barnsley record a win after

Peter Robinson

Had you looked

at this fixture two

weeks ago, you

thought, "nothing

game", but then

these two teams

have

would

met in the Coca-Cola Cup.

another nothing game in a noth-

ing tournament, and all hell

broke loose. Coventry won 4-l

and Howard Kendall, the

Everton manager, stormed on to

the pitch after the final whistle to

remonstrate with his players.

There was a lack of passion, a

lack of feeling and the lack of a will to fight for the club." he said.

"I'm sorry, but I can't have that."

and against the odds. Liverpool

were beaten 2-0. Now comes the

Everton got the message. Next.

five consecutive league defeats. Reverend Peter Amos, the club chaplin, urged 140 churches in the Barnsley diocese to pray for Danny Wilson's team and poor Coventry suffered a 2-0 defeat on Monday.

Neil Redfearn, the Barnsley captain, has no qualms about taking on football aristocracy. have the players and the character to get a result," he said. United have had their usual high-profile week, beating Feyenoord in the Champions'





MANCHESTER UNITED BARNSLEY Today, 3.0 (sold out)

League and finding themselves linked, at last count, with two dozen strikers. David Beckham has upset Arie Haan, Feyenoord's manager. "He deliberately hurt my players," Haan whinged. Beckham will find Barnsley more willing to put shinpads to the test. but not by the expected margin.

struggling with injuries. David May will be out for a month with a torn thigh muscle, while Johnsen and Berg face late fitness tests. Berg's injury was an-nounced initially as a buttock strain, but has now mysteriously moved to his harmstring, no doubt to spare his blushes. Barnsley are injury free, though Hendrie is still not quite match fit.

Three United defenders are

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: A win for United,



COVENTRY CITY EVERTON Today, 30

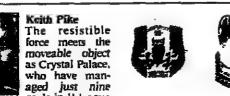
rematch, the chance to make amends. Everton will be wound up to the limit for this one. With Bilic and Phelan on World Cup duty, they will probably be unchanged from their Merseyside derby win. Coventry. with something to prove them-

selves after losing to Barnsley on Monday night, will be without Breen, the central defender, another involved in World Cup play-offs. Williams, no longer suspended, should replace him. Dublin is still serving his time and Huckerby may return from injury. Coventry are one of only four teams still unbeaten at home in the FA Carling Premiership this season. They face a battle to maintain that record today.

COVENTRY CTV (possible 44-2 S Ograma — R Nicson, G Shaw, A Williams, D Burrows — J Salako, G McAlister, W Bloard, M Hall — K Leythourne, D Hubertoy EVERTON (probable, 44-2) N Southalt — E Saret, C Short, D Watson, A Hindrollie — G Stoot, A Williamson, G Spood, J Oster — D Cadamerter, D Ferguson. Federal 5 (2003)

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION; Away win.



goals in 11 league games, take on a Sheffield Wednesday team that has conceded 26 in the same number of matches. David Pleat outs a high premium on entertainment, but even the Wednesday manager is sounding a liπle careworn as his side

hovers near the foot of the table. "We must make sure that if we do score two or three goals [which they have in their past four outings), it is enough to win the game (which it has been only oncel." he said. If Kevin Pressman stopped doing his Ed de

wear, from effete white to robust

red, three weeks ago brought

them their biggest victory of the

season. 3-0 against West Ham

United, in the FA Carling Pre-

miership. Then again, perhaps it

had something to do with David

Jones, the manager, being able to

select from an injury-free squad

Today, with Matthew Le

Tissier expected to return after

for the first time.

Nick Szczepanik

In the week of

baseball's World





SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY CRYSTAL PALACE Today, 3.0

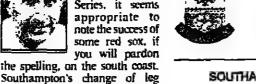
Goey impression in goal it would

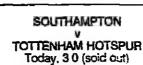
Pleat is likely to rest his Norwegian, Rudi, and put his lire on Carbone and Di Cario to continue in harness up front. It is the absence of an Italian, though. that Palace must counter - and

then some. With Lombardo away on World Cup duty. Steve Coppell must replace not only his midfield engine-room, but also his most creative player and a useful goalscorer. Pleat is most unlikely to let him start with 13 men, so Coppell will probably give Bonetti - yes. another Italian — his debut, Dyer may replace the hamstrung Warhurst, Smith, signed from Wolves this week, may also start.

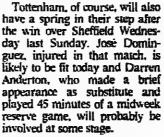
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible: 4-4-2): K Smither Median J Nowsome, D Waller, J N Pressman — I Notan, J Nowsome, D Waller, D Scharovic, — G Mintengham, J Magitan, W Colfris M Permitrogo — B Carptone, P D Carro CRYSTAL PALACE (probable 3-5-2) K Miver — A Limpham, M Edworthy, H Headersson — J Smith 1 Borneth A Roberts, S Redger, D Gordon — 9 Dyer N Shipperley Referee: D Gallagree

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. PREDICTION: Lots of goals, the majority to Wednesday.





to Blackburn Rovers last Saturday, and David Hirst, who always seemed to do well at The Dell as a visitor, making his home debut, Southampton, although bottom of the table. should improve on their 1-0 defeat missing the narrow defeat away in this fixture last year.



SOUTHAMPTON (probable, 4-3-1-2) P Jones
— J Codd, K Markeu, C Lundelvern, S Chorton
— M Cakley, K Richardson, C Palmer — M Le
Toure — K Dates, D Hrist
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable 4-4-2) I
Maker — S Carr S Campbell, R Vega, J
Echtangh — R Fax, D Howells, A Sarron, D
Saraka — J Dominguel, C Amediong,
Refereer, N Bany

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights PREDICTION: Both teams to continue their improvement, with a point each



ARSENAL **ASTON VILLA** Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)



Oliver Holt Aston Villa have effected a modest rally after a start to that brought

them four consecutive defeats, but their loss of two key players through the World Cup qualifying play-offs and their failure, so far, to clinch the signing of Paul Gascoigne, will leave them at a distinct disadvantage in the match against Arsenal at

Highbury tomorrow. Fresh from a fine Uefa Cup performance in Spain against Athletic Bilbao, Villa are still languishing in thirteenth place in the FA Carling Premiership and will be deprived of Savo Milosevic and Steve Staunton, both on duty for their respective countries.

Stan Collymore, their troubled striker, is suspended after his sending-off at Bolton Wanderers three weeks ago, and Ian Taylor is doubtful through injury.

That should be more than

enough to sink Villa against an Arsenal team that will be close to full strength and keen to consolidate their position at the top of the table before Dennis Bergkamo submits to a three-match ban.

Marc Overmars, their left winger, who missed the goalless draw away to Crystal Palace last week, is out with a foot injury and is the only serious worry.

It should, nevertheless, be a fascinating battle between a Villa back three, likely to comprise Gareth Southgate, Ugo Ehiogu and Ricardo Scimeca, and Bergkamp and ian Wright

There is no question that this season has been very disappointing in terms of the league position," Southgate said yesterday. "I have had a moan about it in the last couple of weeks, but we cannot afford to be too negative. We have got to start looking forward and taking the positives from our European performances."

ARSENAL (4-4-2) D Seaman — L Omon. S Bould, A Adams, N VArterburn — R Parlour, Post P Vera. M Overmas - D Borgiamp, I Whight.
ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Boarneh — R
Scimota, G Southste, U Phogu — F
Malson, S Curbet, M Drapper, S Grayson, A
Wright — D Yorko, J Jacobern.
Reference P Curbin.

TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm. FREDICTION: Arsenal to win

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports.



This promises to be a far more entertaining game than the one a few years back, which induced Wimble don's outraged manager, Joe

Kinnear, to heap abuse on the innocent head of Gary Lineker. Lineker had remarked, on television, that the first half was so dull you would have been better off watching it on Ceefax. Rinnear was misinformed that Lineker had said you were better

off watching Wimbledon on Ceefax. Hence the explosion. As one who sat and suffered through that game, I could see Lineker's point, but Wimbledon are a much more attractive team these days, while Leeds perhaps surprised even themselves by running riot and scoring no fewer than four goals at Elland Road against Newcastle United

last Saturday. Several players will be missing from this match because they are in Ireland's squad for the World Cup eliminator against Belgium. Thus, Leeds must replace Gary Kelly and are expect-ed to do so with Lee Bowyer, the talented midfield player, who joined from Charlton Athletic. He has yet fully to display his latent talents but, at his best, he is a creative footballer who can also score goals.

Missing, too, from the Leeds-squad will be lan Harte, though he did not get onto the field last week against Newcastle, Lucas Radebe, the defender, is doubtful





F18 (***)

1

WIMBLEDON LEEDS UNITED · Today, 3.0

have had to concede their right back. Kenny Cunningham, to the Ireland squad and are expected to replace him with Brian McAllister, better known as

centre back. In midweek, they drew away to the presently vibrant Derby County and in Kinnear's heated opinion-should have been given the penalty that might have won

them the game. Their impressive 19-year-old forward, Carl Cort, who has looked so dangerous, both with head and foot, and shown such pleasing technique since he came into the team against Newcastle, is not even sure of his place, despite his precocious form. Though he has just been given a new five-year contract, he could be replaced by the powerful

Marcus Gayle. WIMBLEDON (probable; 4-4-2): N Sulliven — B McAllister, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — M Hughes, V Jones, R Earle, C Hughes — E Bloku, C Cort. LEEDS UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): N Mertyn — G Halle, D Watterall, R Molenaer, D Robertson — I. Bowyer, A Haafand, D Hopkin, B Ribelto — R Wallaca, H Kewell.

TELEVISION: Today: Metch of with an ankle injury. the Day, goal highlights.

Wimbledon, for their part, PREDICTION: A likely draw.



🛢 David Maddock Noel Blake has served his suspension — and aren't Bolton glad. They have suffered in the Wales international's absence and are, omi-

nously, stuck in the bottom three of the Premiership. It is a position that their manager, Colin Todd, finds uncomfortable. "When we were in the Premiership last time, we got off to a terrible start, and it was

ered from," he said. "We knew that we had to get off to a much better start this season. So far, we have played well, but not really got the results we have deserved. It has been a slow start, but it is much better than two seasons ago."

something that we never recov-

At least Bolton have finally recorded their first win at the new Reebok Stadium, albeit in the Coca-Cola Cup against Wimbledon.

They are catching Chelsea at the right time, as Ruud Gullit recognises. "It is always difficult playing in the Premiership after a European match on the Thursday," he said. "But maybe this game was a little more difficult than usual."

Chelsea are without their three Italians. Di Matteo and Zola are away on international duty but the manager may have rested both anyway, such is his determination to revolve his squad. Vialli is suspended. This means Mark Hughes will probably play up front with Tore Andre Flo. Wise and Lambourde are





BOLTON WANDERERS CHELSEA Tomorrow, 3.0 (sold out)

without the injured Le Saux Poyet and Duberry.

Gullit, who may start himself. is still smarting from the debacle in Tromso, and is considering making an official complaint to Uefa about the conditions under which the match was played. It was a surprise that no one was seriously hurt, and Cheisea are angry about Uefa's apparent determination to play the game no matter what the cost.

Bolton have Andy Todd suspended, but Mark Fish seems to have finally shaken off a knee injury and should be fit to take his place in the starting line-up. Gullit will wait until this morning to judge any reaction from the game on Thursday before naming his side.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable: 4-4-2). K Branagan — G Bergsson, M Fish, G Teggan, M Whitew — J Polock, P Francisch, A Thomp-son, S Salers — D Holdsworth, N Bales CHELSEA (probable; 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sincler, S Clarke, D Granville — C Babreyaro, E Newton, R Guille, A Myers, D Petrescu — T A Flo, M Mughes.

TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Highlights in Football Special, Sky Sports 3, 10pm.

PREDICTION: No snow this suspended and Chelsea are also time, but another Chelsea defeat.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Players must accept blame for shaming the name of Liverpool

mances not acceptable to Liverpool Football Club. You will find no one in the dressing room rushing to disagree with him. If anyone should criticise us, it is our manager, Roy Evans, and nobody has a problem with that. We have played badly during the past week. and we know that we deserve taking to task. There are no excuses.

The manager is there to be critical when necessary — it's his job. It's a strange thing, but when the manager comes into the dressing-room and shouts and bawls, we all tend to agree with him. You see, when it gets to that stage, we know we deserve it. It doesn't matter what level you are at, if a team plays badly, the manager lets rip afterwards, Even in the Sun-

The point is that it's a natural thing, but also hardly necessary. The players know that they haven't performed to the level demanded of Liverpool. We have been severely criticised, and quite rightly too, but it's not as if the players don't care. I know our supporters can get that impression but, truly, it's not the case.

We were devastated by the events of last week. We are desperate to win every game, and no professional ever goes out thinking that they won't bother too much in a certain match. It happened that we played very badly, but it was not planned. What can we do? Well, the only

thing is to knuckle down and reflection, but not moping. attempt to learn from our mistakes. What was frustrating and

ur manager has stated day leagues, the boss will have a annoying is that, before the twice in the past week that bit of shout — even if he's just Everton game, we had played very well, against both Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion. We know that we can play at the level required, so there is not a crisis in the sense that some would have

> But in saying that, we have brought on all this talk of problems at Anfield, and we have to resolve it. We know we can play well, but we have to do it more consistently. Our response since Tuesday has been to unite to try to put things back on course. It is what our supporters demand. The only way that we can do that is to work on our failings on the training ground and take as positive an attitude as possible onto the pitch. There must be

What has been upsetting is the pressure that has suddenly been



been plenty of talk about his job. and that is unfair. It is wrong that our performances during an extremely had week should have turned the focus so intensely on him. There have been questions asked about his management, but the questions should have been directed at the players.

. The manager has made his opinion known, but he also knows he's part of it, too. One thing is certain - the players are right behind the manager. The last thing we want is talk to surface of the boss being under pressure. We

have a responsibility to him to make sure that there is no more talk of his job being on the line, and the only way we can do that is

■ Flying the flag
Despite our depressing result in
Strasbourg, it has not been all doom and gloom for English clubs in Europe. Aston Villa got a tremendous draw in Bilbao, and Manchester United did everything asked of them by beating Feye-

I believe this is a big year for

English clubs in Europe. We came close last season, with both our-selves and United making the semi-finals of their respective competitions, and we need to take that a step farther.

The national team is doing well. and there seems to be a renewed respect for our teams across the Continent. That momentum will be maintained only if we can show that we can rival the biggest clubs астоя Ешторе.

Don't bet against it happening. either. United have won three matches out of three in the Champions' League so far and you couldn't ask for more than that. They are looking comfortable and, with a home game against FC Kosice to come, they look to be in a decent position to qualify for the quarter-finals. Newcastle, too, are still in with a good chance of qualifying for the next stage.

I'd better not shout it loudly, but Liverpool still have a chance, too. True, we are three goals behind and we played badly, but we also created plenty of decent chances, which is something that we didn't do against Paris Saint-Germain last season.

Remember that in the second leg against Paris we gave them a real run for their money, and could easily have snatched the tie. I don't believe that Strasbourg, as well as they played in the second half, are as good a team as Paris.

We showed that they can be vulnerable at the back. With a limbe luck, we could have scored a goal or two, and that gives us a glimmer of hope for the second leg. Who knows, with our support behind us on one of those amazing European nights at Anfield, we might just surprise a few people

■ Welcome back, Jamie

One good thing that came out of the game on Tuesday, perhaps the only good thing, was the return of Jamie Redknapp. He has suffered terribly in the past year with an ankle problem, and it is good to see him emerge from his problems.

Even when Jamie was playing last year, his ankle wasn't right. People didn't know, but he was playing in terrible pain at times, and he really suffered. In the end, he got a break on exactly the same spot where he had trouble, and it was obviously a weakness, or maybe a hairline fracture.

Now though, that appears to be all behind him. The break has healed well, and he has returned ahead of schedule, it can easily be lost in a poor team performance, but Jamie played really well on the night in France and that speaks volumes for his attitude.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

□ Next week: Frank Leboeuf

LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L (Last week's position in brackets) D1 2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3) 8 3 4. CHELSEA (5) 2 5 **D2** 6. DERBY COUNTY (6) 17 3 7. LEEDS LITO 19 2 8. WEST HAM UTD (11) 16 0 13 A LIVERPOOL (T) 10 15 ta 4-3-3 11 WIMBLEDON (15) 11 3-3-4 2 12. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (14) 13 3 0 2 2 7 3-4-3 13. ASTON VILLA (10) 13 -5 6 9 2 0 4 6 8 4-1-5 14. CRYSTAL PALACE (13) 2 11 12 3 5 2-3-5 3 2 15. COVENTRY CHY (12) 11 12 0 0 7 1-6-3 W1 7 16. EVERTON (18) 1 2 9 0 3 2 3-2-5 10 11 .**-3** 3 11 IT. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (16) 11 . 9 -10 _2 0 2 9 : 17 2-3-5 14 3-0-7 18. BARNSLEY (20) 11 9 -19 10 | 8 3 2 13 1-5-4 19: BOLTON WANDERERS: \$7) 3 0 2-1-7 11 20. SOUTHAMPTON (19)

	Goets	Avge	Pens	Dead ball	Open play	Head
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2. Arsenai	27	2.45	1	: 6	. 20	1
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4. Derby	19	1,90	2 ·	3	. 14	4
5. Liverpool	16	1.60	.2	. 2	12	1
Manchester Utd	16	1.45	0	3	13	3
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8 Leeds	15	1.38	. 0	6	. 9	5
=. West Ham	15	1.36	. 0	3	.12	2
10. Evertor:	13	1,30	. 1	75	. 7	- 5
11. Leicester	14	1.27	. 0	-7	. 7	5
12 Wimbledon	13	1.20	. 0	3	10	5
13. Aston Villa	12	1,09	G	4	. 8	1
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	Gosla	Average	Pens	Dead bell	Open	Head
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= Tottenham	13	1.18		. 4	. 8	1
11. Liverpool	12	1,20	1.0	2	: 9	2
12 Wimbledon	13	1.20	87.4	- 2	10	3
13. Chelsea	14	1,40	. 0	2	12	2
14. Bolton	45	1.50	0	- 2	13	4
15. Aston Villa	15 17	1.54	4	2	14-	4
= West Ham		1.54	2-14-	3	- 13	. 4
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18. Southempton	16	1.64	1.4	3	14	. 5
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Everton	4	
Leeds Utd	12	
Leicester	4	1
Liverpool	4	1
Manchester Utd.	6	1
Newcastie	4	
Sheffield Wed	6	1
Southampton	_ 2	
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Wimbledon	3	- 1

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1. Leeds Utd	25	- 1
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4. Common	21	3
5. Coventry	23	- 1
6. Arsenal	23	0
7. Everton	20	2
 Sheffield Wed 	20	2
9. West Ham	22	0
10. Tottenham	19	- 1
11. Manchester Utd*	20	0
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	5: Wallace (Leed 4: Berkovic Cadamarteri (Southampton); Wed); Dublin (C (Arsenal); Poye Redfeam (Barns 3: Berger, Four pool); Blake (Bc Wed); Cort, E Effott, Walsh (J (Tottenham); M Petrescu (Chele Palace); Sherin Speed (Everton) ton Villa); Wand	(West (Everton): Di Cer Di Cer (Soventry); st, Vialli skey). vier, Ricco skoku (Weicester); Hughas, thughas, Lon gham (I); Taylor,	nio (S Overm (Chels fle (Li llins (S imbled Ferdin Lebo nbardo Man U Yorke (vies heff iars ea); ver- heff on); and euf, (C td);	Chelsea Coventry Crystal Palace Derby Everton Leeds Utd Leicester Liverpool Manchester Utd Newcastle Sheffield Wed Southampton Tottenham West Ham Wirmbledon
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3	3. P Durkin	8	30	1	Blackburn.
	4. G Ashby	5	23	1	Botton
9	5. P Alcock	5	22	0	Cheisea
2	6. D Elleray	6	23	1	Covertay

GOALSCORERS

10: Bergkamp (Arsenal).

8: Baieno (Derby). 7: Carbone (Sheff Wed); (West Ham).

6: Gallacher (Blackburn).

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		zeres (en Yellow		FA Premiershi	p clubs' official websites
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3. P Durkin	8	30	1	Blackburn	AMM TO ME COTTE
4. G Ashby	5	23	1	Bolton	www.boltonwic.co.uk
5. P Alcock	5	22	ð	Cheisen	www.chelseafc.co.uk
6. D Ellerby	8	23	1	Covertsy	www.ccfc.co.uk
7. M Bodenham	6	24	0	C Palace	www.cplc.co.uk
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CLEAN SHEETS

Arsenal Aston Villa

Barnsley Blackburn

Bolton

Dover v Woking Gateshead v Telford Stevenage v Hednest

WEEKEND	MATCHES
TODAY	Valodwii Conference () Dover v Woking () Gateshaad v Telford () Stevenage v Hednesford
Premiership Bours, † donotes sold out, terrings seats available Carling Premiership	Bell's Scottish League Promer division
1) Coventry v Everton 2) † Liverpool v Derby 3) † Manchester Urd v Samsley 4) † Newcastle v Blackburn 5) Shahsald Wed v Crystal Pelace 6) † Southampton v Totlenham 7) Wirthston v Leeden	(40) Celtic v St Johnstone (41) Dundee Uld v Rangers (42) Kulmamook v Hibernian (43) Motherwell v Aberdeen
4) † Newcastle v Blackburn 6) Shefheld Wed v Crystal Pelace 5) †* Southampton v Totlenham 7) Wimbledon v Laeds	(44) Falkirk v Dunden
ationwide League rst division	(45) Partick v Hamilton (47) Raith v Stirling (48) SI Mirran v Airdria
8) Birmingham v Oxford Uld 9) Bradford v Crewe 0) Huddersfield v Portsmouth 1) Ipoworh v Bury 2) Mirddesbrough v Port Vale 3) Stockport v Wolverhampton 4) Stoke v Sunderland	1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
3) Stockport v Wolverhampton 4) Stoke v Sunderland 5) Swindon v Norwork 5) Trianmere v Chariton 7) West Bromwich v Shefileid Ltid	Third division () Albon v Ouren's Park () Albos v Easi String () Abrosah v Montrose () Dumbarton v Berwick () Rosa County v Cowdenbeath
	FA CUP: Fourth qualifying round: Altrncham v
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MNB	Herstord, Stough v Kingssonian, Southport v N Filmriby; St Afbans v Hendon, Stalybridge v Solihull, Therion Tri v Sudbury Tri, Winstord v Permith Yound v Hayes. DR MARTENS: LEAGUE: Premier diseason:
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" not including last regist's match	Raunds T v RC Warwick, Reddition v Paget R; Station v Statunall, Sulton Colcheld Town v Stourbridge: VS Rugby v Grantham, Southern
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) Southern & Charletti) Walsell v Bristol City) York v Carisse	Buston: Farsley Celus v Albion: Fluton v Great Harwood, Mattock, Town v Whaley Bay;
stord	Stocksbridge PS v Netherfield, Trefford v Bradford v Phamey » Beper Town; Workingson v Eastwood Town, Worksop v Harrogate Town ISTHMIAN LEACULE: Premier division: Behap's Stortloid v Purfeer, Bromley v Gravesend and Notrifleet; Dagenham and Redbridge v Yeading; Hischin v Harrow; Oxford Cdy v Dulwich, Walton and Hersham v Aylesbury: First division: Aldershot Town v Berton Rovers Cheristy v Hampson; Gravia v Thame United; Leylon Permant v Abrigdon Town, Molesey v Meidenhead, Usbridge v Crowdon Wottmarten v Leatherfeed, Wordmon via
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Dominie . 14 8 4 4 28 22 22 22 22 22 23 24 24 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	Croydon, Wokarigram v Leatherhead, Wortning v Berkhamsted Second Gensem, Barking v Carwisy Island: Bedford T v Wealdstone: Cheshuri v Challon, 8 Peters, Edgewste v Touting and Mitcham; Egham v Banstead, Horsham v Hungeriour Martow v Tibury, Porthwood v Witham Wedsor and Elon v Met Police Wivenhoo
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on 14 4 4 6 11 19 16 16 15 15 15 15 15 16 15 16 15 16 15 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16	Kingsbury, Hornchurch v Flackwell Heath, Leves v East Thurnock, Wingate and Finchlay v Ware FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second qualifying round: Canertown v First Tower

(30) Cardiff v Hartiepool (31) Chester v Macclesfield (32) Eveter v Scurithorpe Eeter v Scarmorpe
 (33) Hull v Brighton
 (34) Layton Chert v Colchetter
 (35) Lincoln v Darlington
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 (38) Peterborough v Torquay
 (39) Rochdale v Rotherham
 (39) Rochdale v Rotherham

COVERAGE
TELEVISION: BBC1: Today, Football Focus, from 12:20pm; March of the Day finckudes Unerpool v Derby, from 10:50pm. Tomorrow: Match of the Day frepest, from 7 15cm Sky Sports: 1: Tomorrow: Goels on Sunday, from 11cm, Arsenal v Aston Vita (tive), from 3pm: Sparish league, Deportivo Le Coruña v Catta Vigo, from 12:30cm, 2: Today; Socoer AM, from 8am Tomorrow: Soccer Xia, from 8am Comercia, Socoer Xia, from 8am Chemistry, Robert Cay (five), from 12pm (highlights from 8pm) 3: Tomorrow: Premiership highlights, from 10pm.
RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Today: Live coverage in Sport on 5, from 1pm. Tomorrow: Assensi v Aston Villa (live) in Significa Sport from 1pm.

Ringsbury, Homchurch v Flackwell Health, Lewes v East Thursock, Wingate and Frinchey v Ware FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second qualifying round; Canerlown v First Tower LEAGUE OF WALES: Bengor City v Carmantner Town (2 0); Caermarton v Cwmbran (2 0); Conwy v Caersws (2 30). Film Town v Barry (2 30); Hevertoidwest v Rhyl (2 30). Newtown v Porthmadog (2 30); Filhayader Town v Cerness hrys Mon (2 30); Filhayader Town v Carman v Stephen v College (2 30); Weisinpool v Aborystwith (2 30); SMIRNOFF RIBSH LEAGUE: Premier division; Ards v Cithorville: Ballymena v Cusaders v Cameron, Ornagin v Linfeld, Portadown v Colerane Finst division; Ballydare v Kewny, Detallery v Limavady United Dungannon Switts v Bargor Lame v Cernes. FAI HAMP LAGGER MATCHAUL LEAGUE: Primiter division; Fini Harps v Uco (7 30) Nalicerny v Deny division: Frin Harps v UCD (7 30) Nilkenny v Derry (7 30), Stop v Corb (7 30) PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachnacuddin v Elgin, Cove v Buckle Thisle, Frasarburgh v Fort William, Naim County v Kerth Rother, v Forres Mochanics; Wick Academy v Huntly TOMORROW Kick-off 3 D unless stated FA Carling Premiership † Arsenal v Aston Vilta (4 0) † Bolton v Chelsea Nationwide League First division LEAGUE OF WALES: Connain's Quay v Inter Cable-Tel (2:30) FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier defense. FAI HARTH LANGER FOR HARTH LANGUE, FRENDER divisions Bonemans v Shelbourne (3 15) FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE National divisions Arsenal v Wernbley (at Bromley FC, 2.0), Eventon v Millwell (all Mazine FC, 1.0), Liverpool v Transmero (at Kirlety Sports, Centre, 12 30)



Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

Matt Dawson's tries in South Africa guarantee nothing in

terms of selection for England

mages of the British Isles' triumphant tour to South Africa in the summer are easily summoned, a mere three months after the event. One of them is of a slight, crop-haired figure ghosting past an apparently transfixed defence, casually touching down and then shar-

ing the moment with rugby's

Barmy Army in Cape Town. you watch the video, Matt Dawson says, "all I do is run to the fence, wave at the fans and then walk straight back." Dawson had just scored the try that reversed a thousand opinions and suggested that the Lions might. just might, have developed the personality and the character to go where, a year earlier, New Zealand had gone and beat the Springboks on their

But if, for others, it was a defining moment of the tour, a moment for histrionic celebration, for Dawson it was not. The Northampton scrum half learnt a harsh lesson a year ago - that no one offers guarantees in international sport. He assimilated his removal from the England squad so well that, even after sharing in victory in the first international in Cape Town. he refused to believe that the Lions' No 9 shirt would also be his a week later in Durban.

"Despite everything that happened in the summer, I would never regard myself as being in pole position for England," Dawson, whose sixth cap came against Australia in Sydney in July, said. Even if Austin [Healey] and Kyran (Bracken) were injured, and I had been having the best games of my life, I wouldn't my selection as

Such is the rollercoaster that Dawson has occupied over the last two years. At Franklin's Gardens, his qualities have been continually assessed and appreciated since he arrived in Northampton five years ago, aged 19, fresh from Marlow. tour in Canada in 1993 with the A squad but a badly torn hamstring set him back and it was a further two years before Jack Rowell decided that the Northampton half-backs. Dawson and Paul Gravson. were ready for England. Ready only for that season:



dropped for the meeting with Italy, "I spent a week moping get the place back." Dawson said. "I had to disregard the England games, the A games and tell myself that I had to play out of my skin in every dub game, and that's what got me onto the Lions tour."

Ian McGeechan's influence - as director of rugby at Northampton and coach to the Lions - was of material assistance but McGeechan would have no part in the discussion of players from his own club, and Dawson's own form on tour (he scored two of the Lions' three tries in the three-match series) flung the lie back in the teeth of his critics. It takes a special quality to inherit the mantle of one of the world's leading players the injured Robert Howley

Westhuizen. and rely on what happened last summer but what does remain with you is the memory of what it took to get there,

Northampton weren't going so well. I went back to the tour and tried to reconstruct parts



year later Dawson was

the cynics would say

footing with one of the other class acts, Joost van der That tour has made Dawson a stronger, better competitor. "You can never sit back

- and to compete on an equal

what we went through before we won the series in Durban,"

Dawson said. Two weeks ago, when



Dawson, the hub of the British Isles XV, is now seeking to cement his place at scrum half in the England team once again on the back of impressive displays for Northampton

of the approach to the big

I remember thinking how nothing eise mattered than to play five minutes, 20 minutes, a whole game for the Lions. [remember rooming with Neil Jenkins in Durban and how 50 caps for Wales, were desperate to play just the once for the Lions. That's the quality of thought those of us on the tour bring back to the club and what we need to produce, week after week." It worked last week. Having stumbled through the European Conference, Northampton's level of preparation went up several notches and they beat Leicester, the Pilkington Cup holders, in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

The tour beined develop an equilibrium in Dawson which, at base, was probably there anyway. The younger of two children, his love of the game was fostered by the enthusiasm of his father, Ron, and at the Royal Grammar School. High Wycombe, although his performance on the games field was not matched by success in the classroom.

Northampton welcomed him aboard, played him at centre, and dispatched him for three months to the Te Awamutu club in Walkato, New Zealand, where he discovered the qualities of mental hardness that were to stand on. He worked for, and retains strong links with, the Firm Security company in Northampton before accepting the suggestion of his flatmate and fellow player, Brett Taylor, and becoming a student teacher at Spratton Hall prepara-

putting together phases of play that are going to create pressure. What last week taught us is that we

have to get back to being patient in both attack and defence. We created

chances but didn't take them. There is

not going to be any panic, though. We just had an extremely bad day at the

office. We had an extra training session on Wednesday to work on

I take losing very, very personally

indeed and you can't exorcise that

feeling until you play the next game, which is London Irish tomorrow. We

will be without Andy Gomarsall and

things; work it out of our system.

"When I finish in the firstclass game, I wouldn't go back to teaching in the formal sense but I have an eye on taking a degree and I would like to coach," Dawson said. "I've found I'm quite good at comwill dovetail with the end of your active career. That's the The decision to become a

full-time professional was made easier by that fact that I had no qualification to do anything else. I always wanted to be a rugby player and, now

that the corporate side of the game is developing, you never know who you'll meet. I enjoy meeting the chairman of this company or the managing director of that company, and there are a lot of successful business people in Northampthe club."

It is a case, you might say, of a scrum half exploiting the gap when it occurs. Northampton was right for Dawson and he believes he is right for the club; he has a loyalty to the Saints that would take an uncommon amount of money

to shift, and a perspective that other players would do well to note. You can't just walk into a club and expect money -you have to earn it," he said.

There has to be something else - as an ambitious player, I want to be part of a team that plays a cup final, plays in Europe, wins the league. When we get into the top four and they will probably get

By then, too, Dawson will have discovered whether England's new management also feel that he is right for them.

Television cameras provide some light relief after poor performance in home defeat

This week the television cameras have been at Wasps filming the L credits for the new Rugby Express series on Channel 5, which is taking over from the BBC's Rugby Special. We opened our facilities to about fifty or sixty players from local junior clubs, plus camera crews, for the three-day shoot. It's nice for them to come to a club like ours and I hope they enjoyed the experience. It is good to see that rugby is going to get exposure on terrestrial television.

There are a lot of people who miss the Sunday afternoon rugby slot and the chance it provided for them to catch up with the week's events. It's important for the profile of the game that it has as many avenues for exposure. I have Sky and I'm a big fan, but there is a need to offer the people who don't have Sky, or don't want it, the chance to watch these matches, it's great for rugby.

The media is part and parcel of the game. The coverage has never been greater for rugby than it is now on radio and televison and in the newspapers. I did a forum on the Internet for my book launch and the amount of questions that came through was huge: it reinforces the level of interest in the game.

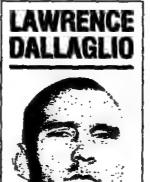
As far as handling the media is concerned, people ask you questions and you give them honest answers that's what people want. You have got to be sensible about when is the right time to talk to the media. Alex

Sky no longer the limit as interest rate soars

Ferguson lets his Manchester United players know when that is: that's the example for others to It was disappoint-

ing to have lost our first home league game against Saracens last Sunday. Perhaps we got a little bit too carried away with our Eurobeam success ~ although they were hard games, we were not having to work so hard for victory in certain matches. We lost the underperformed. This season, if you play badly you lose,

whereas last year, even if we didn't perform, we managed to get away with a narrow win, particularly against sides such as Bristol and Northampton. It is going to be a lot



mark was getting out of jail when they underperformed, went to Northampton last week and got a substantial beating. Their meeting this weekend will be fascinating.
We didn't lose through complacen-cy — Saracens are a good side, we knew that — but, in Europe, we were successful with first-

against Newcastle

since then: Leicester

a side whose hall-

phase possession a would be against a good defensive side in the league. We would win a lineout and drive through the middle or we would have a back-row move off a scrum and it would be successful. We

hadn't really been asked questions in

terms of retaining possession and

Alex King, who are both injured. he of the reasons we were so successful last season was that we were able to limit the number of injuries. There is an element of luck about that, but it was also to do with the team being incredibly fit. If you are fit, you won't get what I call avoidable injuries, such as pulled calf muscles.

It's important to have strength in depth, particularly at half back; No 9and No 10 are pivotal positions. Linder-21 scrum half, so his coming in is not a weakness. Gareth Rees has played more than 40 times for Canada at fly half, so there wouldn't be a weakness there, either, and Guy Gregory, whose goalkicking was responsible for getting us into Europe, is also around.

Johnson's men need a lift By DAVID HANDS

EARLY in the Allied Dunber Premiership season it may be, neither Bath er, who meet at Welford Road today, are

accustomed to looking up the table to see who is perched ahead of them. Yet the days when these clubs provided the defining moments of an entire season are gone - money has

"Clubs like ourselves, Bath and Wasps can no longer play at 70 per cent and hope to win." Martin Johnson said. "But you need that competition. Newcastle and Richmond frespectively first and third in the division have come in, fresh and keer; Saracens, Gloucester, everyone has a competitive squad. If you have a bad day, you are

going to be beaten."

Johnson's Leicester players had such a day at Northampton last weekend, and the team had been misfiring even before defeat at Franklins Gardens, Johnson, who captained the British Isles in South Africa, admits that many of his Lions colleagues five from Leicester — are not displaying their best form.
He attributes that to disrup-

tion in the pre-season but also acknowledges the possibility

of staleness affecting players involved in so long a domestic 1996-97 season and then striving for even greater peaks with the Lions. The inspiring example to others is that he holds his own form so well, but if the visit of Bath does not act as a spur to an unchanged Leicester XV, nothing will.

"Bath and Leicester has been, and always will be, special." Jonathan Callard, picked by Bath at full back ahead of Ian Balshaw, said. The tradition and the trophies we have collected guarantees long-term rivalry. hostility and respect."

Leicester have played only two premiership games, as have Wasps, the champions. The Londoners are involved in one of four first division matches being played tomor-row in a busy weekend for the capital. Harlequins, with Massimo Cuttitta returning from duty with Italy, play Sale today and London Irish and Saracens (against Gloucester) are in action

To add spice, London Scot-tish play Bedford this afternoon in the clash between the

sion, but all their first division rivals will be looking north to see Newcastle's result against a resurgent Richmond, with whom they were promoted last season. Richmond's second-half display against Harpted by Allan Bateman, was extraordinary and Newcastle

remain without two England internationals, Tim Stimpson (damaged thigh) and John Bentley. Stuart Legg plays full back and Bentley is only a Richmond have yet to defeat Newcastle in the league and will look to Bateman to display his midfield skills against an old

acquaintance from rugby league days, Va'aiga Tuig-amala. Wales, too, will be encouraged by Bateman's form, with internationals against Tonga and New Zealand looming, and their selectors will make further assessments today when Car-diff play Ebbw Vale and Pontypridd visit Newport in the Welsh League.

David Young Cardiff's experienced prop, has damaged ribs and two other internationals, Robert Howley and Emyr Lewis, may be



ALFRED DUNHILL LONDON

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THE NEW MILLENNIUM WATCH

THE NEW CENTENARY FACETED WATCH





White back in fast lane to ease into semi-finals

BY PRUL YATES

JIMMY WHITE provided incontrovertible evidence that his confidence has been restored during a \$-0 victory over Mick Price in the quarterfinals of the Grand Prix at Bournemouth yesterday. White, whose demeanour

oozed the renewal of selfbelief, required only 65 minutes to brush aside an opponent with an unblemished record in their three previous encounters. Immediately stamping his authority on the contest, White compiled a fluent 105 break in the opening frame, added a run of 83 in the third and completed the whitewash with a 94 break in the fifth.

That list of contributions could have been enhanced had it not been for workmen repairing the roof of the venue. They made such a clauer during the fourth frame that White missed a simple red when in prime position.

The disturbance proved only a minor irritation. Price failed to capitalise and White secured his first appearance in the semi-finals of a ranking tournament since the Embas-sy World Championship of

May 1995,
"I'm enjoying it so much I just want this run to carry on,"
White said, "I put in a lot of work at Brixton Snooker Centre during the summer and it's made me mentally strong. I'd gotten lazy and was taking things for granted. There's still a need to steady down but I'm very happy with the way I'm playing."
White, who lost his initial II

matches last season and began the present campaign at 21st in the world rankings, continues the attempt to win his first tournament since the 1993 European League when he meets Dominic Dale. White was beaten by Dale

5-2 in the first round of the British Open six months ago, a result that heavily contributed to White's relegation from the game's elite top 16 after an unbroken occupation of 15

On that occasion White's flight from London to Plymouth was delayed, hampering his preparation, and he admitted to "taking a liberty and having a late night." Dale cannot expect to benefit from a rival bearing the burden of a self-inflicted handican this

TENNIS

Kiefer feels pressure on home front

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN STUTTGART

THE last five days have offered Nicolas Kiefer a preclous insight into the demands awaiting him as the rising star in German tennis. In front of increasingly expectant galleries, Kiefer finally came up empty yesterday when Jonas Bjorkman brushed him aside in the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open.

It has been quite a week for Kiefer, already the youngest winner on the Tour this year. His relentless march towards the elite has coincided neatly with his usurping Boris Becker as the highest-ranked player in Germany. With it comes Kiefer's responsibility to uphold his country's enormous investment in the men's

Seven high-profile tourna-ments, with prize funds of more than \$18 million (about Eli.3 million), have been scheduled here next year. Few would be commercially viable without a German flagbearer in the mould of Becker.

Despite yesterday's reverse, Kiefer, 20, has vindicated the belief that he can fill the departing Becker's shoes. His defeat of Greg Rusedski on Wednesday, demonstrated Wednesday demonstrated a maturity beyond his years, and an epic contest with Paul Haarhuis, which ended very late on Thursday night, underlined his steely resolve. That marathon contest, in which Kiefer saved two match

points, effectively brought him to his knees. He duly collapsed against Bjorkman — yet the experience will have fortified him for a hectic schedule next

up to his best, day after day, had left him drained. The problem for me was that I was a little bit tired," he said. "Now I am No I in Germany everybody wants to see me win. If I win, everybody is happy. And if I lose, they say, 'Hell, what are you doing? It is not easy."

Bjorkman, by contrast, faces no such burden of expecnancy. If the Swede, ranked No 13 in the world, is pro-

gressing smartly enough, the interest of his countrymen has long since been saturated by the brilliance of Stefan Edberg and Bjorn Borg before him. Not a single Swedish journalist is here to chart his Nevertheless, as Tim Hen-

man discovered in the previous round, Bjorkman- is mighty difficult to suppress. He pressured the Kiefer serve at will, and when the German indulged in baseline rallies, a spate of unforced errors gave Biorkman the encouragement that he needed to triumph 6-4, 6-2. Like so many raw talents, Kiefer has much to grasp in the realm of tactics. If Kiefer must emerge from Becker's formidable shadow,

he can at least tap into the



Bjorkman plays a return to Kiefer on his way to victory in the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open yesterday

WATCHING Amanda Janes

play tennis should carry a Government health warning.

Yesterday she had the chance to win the Maureen Connolly

Trophy for Britain, but over

the course of a tense two hours

she managed to lose to Mary Carlisle White 4-6, 7-5, 6-8, leaving the United States in

It was not an easy after-noon. Her mother, Christine

Truman, professes to leave her

daughter alone to be her own

person. But when it comes to

watching her play, the 1961 Wimbledon finalist plays ev-

ery shot with her daughter. Nervous tension was the order

with a chance at 5-2.

great man's wisdom. Becker is manager of the Mercedes team, in which Kiefer is a vital component. Becker will doubtless shape Kiefer's mind but he can do nothing to shape his style, for Kiefer is close to being a clone of Andre Agassi. He looks like the American. hits like him, walks like him, even dresses like him.

Let us hope that he has more ambition; after talking of his new-found commitment, Agassi has inexplicably pulled out of the Super 9 tournament in Paris next week. In that event, Henman plays Hicham Arazi in the opening round, while Rusedski, seeded No 4. plays the winner of the match between Jan Siemerink and Todd Martin in the second

BY ALIX RAMBAY

Janes spurns Trophy chance

of the day — if you had plugged Truman into the Nat-ional Grid, she would have lit Bradford for a week.

There was plenty to be nervous about. White played well to take control throughout the first set-and-a-half and, at 5-4, was serving for the match. Two match points came and went as Janes fought back and eventually broke to level the score at 5-5. The family sighs of relief could be heard around the Lancashire Club court in Manchester as White threw in the

5-2 lead in the third set. But mother knew best, as she She warned: "She can lose it from here, I've seen it happen before." Sure enough, the Janes first service stuttered and White perked up at the sight of a second chance.

Despite the disappointment, Britain were still only one rubber away from victory. The stage had been set earlier by Abigail Tordoff, who enjoyed a comfortable 6-4, 6-0 win over Lauren Kalvaria. Her opponent, without her trademark baseball cap, then beat Stephy Maybry 5-7, 6-1, 6-0, though Mandy Wainwright lost 4-6, 5

Douglas looms large for

Lewis

BOXUME James "Buster" Douglas, the former undisputed world heavyweight champion, is heading the queue of contenders for Lennox Lewis's World Boxing Council crown. Douglas and Lou Savarese, another American, are the opponents most favoured by Home Box Office, Lewis's American cable network, for a title defence in Las Vegas on February 21.

The plan is dependent on Lewis's failing in his attempt at a unification deal with Evander Holyfield. the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion. should he beat Michael Moorer, the International Boxing Federation holder, on November 8. Holyfield may be ordered to meet the winner of a WBA title final eliminator between Orlin Norris and another of the leading contenders.

Fair challenge GOLD Lors

Fairclough, 27, the Solhein Cup player from Chorley, recorded a four-under-par 68 to be the leading British player — in joint fourteenth place on level-par, 216 going into the fourth and final round of the United States LPGA Final Qualifying School at Daytona Beach, Florida. Only the leading 23 players and ties will secure players' cards.

Mather moves M RUGEY CENGUE:

Castleford Tigers yesterday signed Barrie-Jon Mather, 24, the former Wigan and Great Britain utility player, on a contract for next season, after the player's ill-fated two-year spell in Australia with the now defunct Perth Reds club.

High ambition

CYCLING: Street Dangerfield aims to win the wational foll disal championship for the third raccessive year on the 1,704-metres ascent of Rowsley Bank, near

Hawk eyes save Drakes from paying the penalty third again after a countback against

A SHARP-EYED tournament official

saved a player in the Eastern Home Counties and Anglia regional final of The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge yesterday from col-lecting a fixtful of penalty shots that would have cost his team victory.

Danny Roe, at 16 the youngest player to have appeared in this regional final series, had 15 clubs in — one more than the number allowed in the rules — as he prepared to start his round at Brocket Hall. If Dominic Warren, a member of the MMA event management team, had

incurred a two-shot penalty on each hole, up to a maximum of four Those four shots would have

prevented Drakes Group Ltd from becoming the first company this year to claim a place in the national final for the second time. They appeared at La Manga in 1995 and finished out of the prizes. Paul Simcox, their captain, is single-minded in his intention that they will do better this year.

Warren's hawk eyes were given even more importance by the fact that Roe and Simcox started on the 10th, and since they won the competition from ITM Ltd only after a toms and Excise Investigation Sernot spotted Roe's error he would have countback of the inward nine holes, vice, national finalists last year, were



to score on the 10th and 11th would have left Drakes Group cursing, out of the winners' enclosure. HM Cus-

BASEBALL

Hernandez holds

Indians at bay

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN CLEVELAND

LIVAN HERNANDEZ. a 22-

year-old defector from Cuba,

carried the Florida Marlins

on his broad shoulders to

within a single victory of the

World Series here on Thurs-

day night. The Marlins beat

the Cleveland Indians 8-7 to return to Miami with a 3-2

lead in the best-of-seven se-

If they win either of the

remaining games, to be played at their own Pro

Player Stadium tonight and

tomorrow, they will take the

oldest major championship in American sport less than

five years after the formation

Hernandez, who was the

winning pitcher in the open-

ing game, came within two outs and a bad umpiring

mistake of pitching a com-

plete game, overcoming an

attack of the jitters in the

third inning to defeat Orel Hershiser, for the second

time. A last, desperate rally

by the Indians brought them

three runs in the bottom of

the ninth but they came up

short when Sandy Alomar,

their outstanding player, flied out to right field with a

Alomar, whose three-run

homer in the third had given

Cleveland a 4-2 lead, de-

served better but his team did

not. Their last rally was

founded on a dreadful piece

of umpiring, when Ken Kai-

ser ruled that Hernandez

had failed to put his foot on the base when running out

Bip Roberts. Replays showed

clearly that Roberts should

have been given out.

Florida Cleveland

Florida least enting 3-2

man on first base.

ries.

National Munual Life. Another quirk of fate in Drakes's success came in the person of Peter Gyoury. In 1995 he came into the team after one of the original four had to withdraw, and the same happened this time. "He's our lucky mascot," Simcox said.

ment, Simcox, who had played the demanding Brocket Hall course besolid two-balls that scored consistentGyoury, La Manga veterans both, will be hoping to give their team their local knowledge of the South Course. Amid the heat and shredded nerves of the La Manga showdown, that

RESULTS: 76: Drakes Group Ltd; ITM Ltd (Drakes Group Wn on countback) 76: HM Customs & Excise Hatternel Investment Service; Notional Minusi Life (HM Customs & Excess their on countback), 75: Tullett & Tokyo Fores Infamational, 71: Results Ltd (Columba), Wills Comon Group ptc. 86: Hewitson Bedies & Brew, IPS (Office Supplies) Ltd. 86: General Sirnal National Ltd. 48: General

GUIDE TO THE OTHER WEEKEND FIXTURES.

Today

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Berford Tigers v Canmock (at Alument Community Cantee, Walsall, mont); Beeston v Doncester (at Highlinde, Notificiales, N

Anchorizne; Purley v Meldenhelict; Remgerhis v City of Portemouth; Trojans v Bournemouth; Turbridge Walle v Win-chester; Winbledon v Beckenham; Wolding v Gora Court. Milddv/Berks/Bucte and

RUGBY LEAGUE Date of 3.20

Rust off 3.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Preinler division: Autem v Wigan St Pasticit's;
Beverlay v Egremont, Ducley Hell v Mayfield;
Heworth v Wooston; Olchern St Anne's v
Lock Lang, Walney Central v West Hull Flest
division: Barrow Island v Thomhilt; East
Leads v Rechilt; Millorn v Blackbrock;
Moldgreen v Millord; Outhon v Eastmoor;
Skitsugh v Shev Cross; Wigan St Judie's
Leigh East. Second division; Crostlede v
Dewebury Moor; York Acorn v Normenton.

chester; wimboloch v Sectement: worting v Gora Court. Middot/Berks/Bucilicia and Oconc American v Murlow; Ashford v Gerrado: Crose; Fernham Cormon v Hendor; Lione v Hayes; Milton Keynes v Phoenic, Newbury v Bracknest; PHC Chievack; v West Hampassach Richings Park v Wolfingham; Staines v Old Kingstoriane; Sumuny v City of Coford, Kent-Sussecc Ashford v Wortning; BEHC v Tulisa Hill: Bedsey Invicts v Burnt Ash; Blacknesth v Brighton; Folkestone v Lloyda Benk; Horshem v Old Wilsemsoniane; Manden Russels v Savenneite; Middebon-Bognor v Eastbourne; Old Boddenians v Mid Sussec; Old Holcombelens v Newtween, HampashingSurrey; Androver v Deshott Basingstote v Old Georgians; Blandford v Spencer; Cheson v Old Mid-Writzpiffans; London Univ v Dulwich; Old Crantelighams v Barmes; Coded v Camberley; Petantifield v Epsom.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Carcion v Crostor; Colchester v Isserich; Luton Town v Cambridge City, Peterborough Tin v Blahop's Scrifford, Sudbury v Cambridge Univ. Premier division B: Ipseich and E Suffok v

RUGBY UNION FIXTURES

Today

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated Alled Dunbar Premierahip First division Hadequina y Sal

Second division

Javason National League First division Liverpool St Hatens v Harrogate

Meion north

Aspinie V Frankru Greencoorts
BinnischensBothul v Whrangton Park
KerdensBothul v Whrangton Park
Kerdensbothus v Seedley Park
Sandels v Seedley Park eschili disperion heliocraticitalisti Valentia disperior

scond division south Baristo v Bridgwater Camberley v Weston cuper-Mere Catton v Month Westham

Physician v Bahar Tabard v Chellariham SOUTH WEST: First division: Brackrist v Barry Hit: Gloucester Old Boys v Stroud; Makinthand v St Aue; Matabo v Hernstaphi; Parranoist

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First di-vision: Harison v Old Mich Whighlisters; Nowich v Themet Wenderers: Public v Chesthurt Southand v Thurmed: States v Address: Sudbury v Chesthan Park Sutton and Ensorn v Golddord and Godelming: Webladon v Old Collegens. Westadon v Old Callelans.
MOJANDS: First division: Banbury v Woldstempton: Burson v Broadstreet, Camp Hill v Badganer. Derby v Badgane. Sugn. Herestond v Winterhatch. Ladytton Suzzand v Westalgh; Manafeld v Sydner. Schriftspar v State-on-Turk.

Manafeld Der deliber on-Turk. MORTH'S First division: Sectionary West Park Bennisper, Scoughton Park v Middles-tenagh, Maccinsteld v Wigton; New Engi-ton v 1-tas dvanner; Stockern v Tyneddiv; Midnas v Olicateur.

Cardiff v Ebber Vale (2.30). Lienetti v Swanssa (6.0)..... Neeth v Bridgand (2.0)..... Newport v Pontypridd (2.0) Free divention

SECOND DIVISION: Abercyton v Narbenty, Kentig Hill v Pyle; St Peter's v Tondu; Yetradoyniete v Whitlend; Lianhenen v Mountein Aen; Tentry Utd v Tredeger. SAU League Trophy Group A

Edinburgh Acade v Hawlek Heriot's FP v Glasgow Hawles . Kirkosidy v Gala Netroes v Currie Mussafburgh v Preston Lodge

Group B Bigger v West of Scotland Boroughmutr v Kelso Dundes HSFP v Klimannock Jac-Forest v Peebles Watsonians v Stirling County Group C

Aberdeen GSFP v Stewart's Mei FP Group D ... Hithead/Jordanhill v Glasgow Southern Selkirk v Ayr Chab meets

Grangemouth v Stewartry Tomorrow..... Kick-off 3.0 polossi stated Allied Dunbar Premiership First division Related v Northampton .. London Irish v Waspa Newcestle v Richmond Saracena v Gloucester

SRU inter district chemplonship

Edinburgh v Caledonia Tour match 54

Flormford; Norwich City v Bectlord; Red-bridge and Bord v Did Southendlen; St New v Bury St Edmands; West Hards v Dorcham. DTZ. DESP-NHAM THORIE: MECANO LEASUR: Premier division: Exception of Olson and West Warwick; Coventy and North Warwicks v Nottingham; Hampton-In-Arden v Herborne; Khalsa v Edgbaston; North Safford v Biossomfield; Northampton Beime v Marin Notte.

MCRITH LEAGUE First children: Ben MCRITH LEAGUE First children: Ben Rhydding v Durham University: Chester v Formby; Harrogets v Wigen; Nestor v Scuthport, Noton v Swalvet; Timperiey v Scuthport, Noton v Swalvet; Timperiey v West of BirdLAO & SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division; Bristol Univ v Taunton Vale; Chatenham v Baster Univ; Clevedon v Bash Bucas; Swansea v Weston-auper-Mare; Whitchurch v Robin-

BASSISTEALL: Budwiller Lague Li-cester Riders v Westlord Royals (7.30). Uni-ball Trophy: Derby Storm v Menchester (8ams (7.30); Barmigham v Crystel Palace (7.30); Worthing Bears v Trumes Valley Tigers (8.0).

Tigers (8.0).
SCIGNO: British and Commonwealth
bentstraweight championality: F Ampoto
(London) v P Lloyd (Bleamare Port,
Commonwealth champion) (at Desside Leisure Centre, Chester); European light-weight championathic: O Caro (Sq. holder) v B Schwer (Lutton) (in Zangoza, Spain).
CYCLIME: British universities' (48 offinb championahip (at Curber Gep, Besidw, 2.0).

2.0). USE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ay Scottish Eagline v Bestrignación Blaco (0.20); Noting-hern Pentriera v Newcastle Cobines (7.0). Bernson and Hedges Pistes Semi-finals, final leg: Talford Tigers v Patentorough Passes (7.30); Passey Pistans v Stough Jess (7.0).

(174). LACROSSE: Shepherde Friendly Society Leegue: Premier division: Cheadle Huime v Cheadle; Heaton Mersey v Meilor. V Creater, Person Newson, Newson, SNCOKER: Grend Prix (in Bournamoust).

IPPEDWAY: Creven thisto: Semi-final, ascond leg: Essistiourne (35) v (Ong's Lynn (53) (7.0); Swindon (40) v Covenny (50) (7.50). (7.3.7). TENNIS; Maureen Connolly Trophy: Great Britain v United States (in Manchester); Girobersk Tour event (in Taunton).

Tomorrow HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Carnock v Beaston (at Morts Gound, 230); Doncatter v Sanford Tigers (at Bennethorps, 2.0); Old Loughtoniers v Guiddord (at Chigwei, 1.30); Resoling v Carnierbury (at Sorning Lens, 2.0); Southgets v East Grinstess (at Treat Park, 2.0); Teddington v Hounstow (at Lensbury Cute, 2.30). First division: Brontley v S Albaina (at Priory Leasure Centre, Orpington, 1.0); Gloucester City v Firebrands (at Priory Court, 1.30); Harmested and Westminster v Chelmstord (at Packfington Recreation Ground, 12.30); Hefeston Magpies v Codord Hawks (at Shotford Heart, 2.0); Hawart v Brooklands (at Hawart College, 2.0); lace v Hull (at Exster South Down Cute, 1.30); Loughborough Suddents v Business v Indian Gymithana (at South Down Cute, 1.30); Sousport v Orderd Linkershy (at Kolderminster School, 2.30); Wernington v Subton (at Parketh County School, 1.30).

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweler Langue: Cheetex Jots v Newcastle Englas (5.30): London Lacqueds v London Towas (6.30): Uni-ball Trophy: Manchester Glaris v Shelflett Sharks (6.30). CYCLING: Neilonal trill camb champion-ghips (at Rousley Bank, Derbyshire, 10.0).

ethips (at Howsley Bank, Derbyshire, 10.0).
ICE HCCKEY: Superleague: Shelikes
Steelers v Besingstoke Blaza (6.30):
Bracknel Bess v Manchester Storm (6.0):
Cardiff Devila v Newcastle Cohes (6.0):
Benson and Hedges Plate: Sami-Brais,
second leg: Peterborough Pintes v Tellord
Tigers (6.15):
Sentrol(ES): Grand Pole In Expressmental.

the points that Roe would have failed

In a cute piece of team manage-

Instead, the rally devel-

oped, Hernandez was re-

placed by Robb Nen and the

Marlins gave up three runs,

one fewer than they could

afford. Hernandez had strug-

gled badly in the first three innings, giving up seven

walks. Afterwards, Jim Ley-

land the Marlins manager,

was asked if one more man

on base then would have

brought the end for

Hernandez. "You'll never

know," he replied with a

Until the sixth, it seemed

that Hershiser, at 39 the

grand old warrior of the series, who would earn the

pitching laurels. But when his nemesis, Moises Alou, who had struck a three-run

homer off him in the first

game, came to the plate in the

sixth. Hershiser's confidence

seemed to evaporate. Three

pitches took almost five min-

utes and the third was dis-

patched over the leftfield

fence for a three-run homer.

And so the day belonged

once again to Hernandez,

who shows every sign of being a pitcher for the ages.

That he should be Cuban is

all the more reason for him to

be celebrated in Miami. That

he should be so young is

entirely appropriate for a man leading such a new team towards the sport's

summit of achievement. His family, forced to stay in Cuba

by the government, knew

within minutes what he had

done. How, he was asked.

"It's a secret," he replied, as

mysterious off the mound as

Hits

he had been on it.

Runs

GAME FIVE DETAILS - - - -

123458789

Winning plactier, Liven Hernendez, Losing plactier, Orel Hershiser, Seive: Acido

The World Series moves to Miami today for game six and (if required) seven tomorrow. The series is being falevised live in Britain by Channel 5.

fore, paired himself with Roe, an eight-handicapper, who had not in the other pairing Gyoury, also off eight, played with Phil Morris. Simcox's strategy produced two

could be vital.

Signal Natwork List: RAP Police Golf Association 87: Travor Jones: KPMG 88: Autent Associatios; Whitbread plc. 65: WKD Bulders & Decorators Ltd. 68: Machinyre Hudson; The Comets New Scotland Yard; Steel Services (Great Yarmouth) Ltd. 61: Rowe & Maw; Vizords Soliction: 60: Heetitical Group plc 58: Sampleti & Co Ltd. Mallon Fund Administration Ltd. 55: MeesPerson Securities (UK) Ltd. NR: intermitional Patricle on Englands.

Third Test match Pakistan v South Africa FAISALABAD (first day of five; South Africa won tose) Paldstan, with eight first-innings would in hund, and 198 runs behind South

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings S M Pollock c Azirr b Mushtag Ahmed
fü J Richardson c Saglein
b Mushtag Ahmed
L Klusener c Ipz b Mushtag Ahmed
P L Symcox b Washr Akram
A A Donald c Mushtag Ahmed
Wasim Akram
P R Adems tow b Azher
Edites (b 4, 8b 3, nb 5)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-11, 3-12, 4-30, 5-40, 6-64, 7-98, 8-222, 9-230.

Aamir Schell, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Wagar Youns, Santain Mushtaq and Mushtaq Ahmed to bal. BOWLING: Dorold 6-1-20-1; Prices 100 12-1; Adams 2-1-1-0; Symoox 1-1-0-0

Main Assam (Paressan).

TOUR MATCH: Calms (trind day of four):

New Zealand 196 (6 A Pocock 63) and 190-4 (5 P Fleming 59 not out): Oueensland

571-9 dec (M Love 201)

SHEFFIELD (FHIELD: Bydney (third day of four): Victoria 509-8 dec and 176-4 (1)

Harvey 61 not out); New South Wales 407-4
dec (5 R Waugh 202 not out, S Lee 61 not out). Perfit (second day of tour): Western

Autoratin 477-5 dec (A C Glichnet 203 not out, T M Moody 101); South Australia 124-8.

BASEBALL

WORLD SERIES: Clavaland 7 Florida 8 (Florida land best-of-seven series 3-2).

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE Librarier Riden.
136 Derby Storm 134 CP.
136 Pisen (Tur) 73; Limoges (Fr) 71
Pael Macind 85, Microsotti Tel Ariv 73
Clympielos (Cr) 87; Group B: Croetia Spit
72 Benetion Traviso (ti) 77, Porto (Por) 98
Esticilarias Macind 82, Group C: Oncore
Bologna (ti) 94 Ukersoor (Tur) 94. Peritzen
Bologna (ti) 94 Ukersoor (Tur) 94. Peritzen
Bologna (ti) 95 CP.
13 Barcalona 88. Group D: Olimpia
Liubijaria (Stovensa) 99 Teamsystem Bologna (ti) 68.

Wweg 50-58 Whee 50-88 YETTON TROPHY: EWEA netenal inter-club championship: Preliminary round: Seston by Stantind 77-65; Telephotoge IX isca 99-58; Cestoroup (Maddenhaad) bt Herga 103-53, Exonia bt Pactorook Park 94FOR THE RECORD

67. Sidmouth bi Avminster 91-68; Budleigh Salterton bi South Hams 86-72; Torbay bt Evimouth Madiera 86-61; Sunderland bi Durham 90-84; Spermymoor bt Redcar 119-

BCM/LING: Wasim Akram 16-6-42-4; Waqar Youns 10-1-36-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 22-3-81-3; Azhar Mahmood 10.4-2-36-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 10-2-37-0. PAKISTAN: First innings

Umpires. S Dunn (New Zaaland) and Mian Asiam (Pakistan).

BADMINTON

SANTON: Intermetional mistah; England 0 China 5 (England names first: T Woodward lost to Pi Hongen 5-11, 4-11; E Chefin and 8 Hardaker lost to Liu Zhong and Hueng Hargering 8-15, 3-15; M Constable lost to J Yangering 8-15, 14-17; J Anderson and I Sufficen lost to Cheng Rul and Wang Wai 18-14, 13-15, 12-15, C Hurt and Hardaker lost to Zhu Feng and Pi 15-8, 8-15, 12-15).

BOWLS KINGSTHORPE: English woman's Indoor

Salisarton to South Hams 86-72: Torbay bt Earnouth Maciera 86-81: Sunderland bu Durham 90-84: Spermymoor bt Redcat 118-82: Lincoh bit Long Sution 65-71: Australia 19-84: Northigham bit Ashfield 122-61: Chemenal bit Black 178-12; Meltan Mowbray bit Newark. 88-87: Barwell bit Church Gressey 79-65: Gedling bt Cartion 105-60. Bassediaw bit Leocaster 92-84: Cambridge Chesterton bit Turpins 93-54. Kettering to Northampton 91-45: Felbestower and Suffokt bit Sole Bay 78-59: West Mercas bit Bashop's Stortton 89-81: Towerlands bit Hamenden bit Wallord 81-79: Severage bit Bashop's Stortton 89-81: Towerlands bit Hamenden bit Wallord 81-79: Severage bit Bastoley 75-71; Slade bit Gosting 79-72; Rugby Thomfield bit Coverty 86-87: Gloucaster bit Themssdown 93-61: Swedom Westlecot bit Perdiswell 93-53: Bentham bit Fathord 98-71; Bentster Park bit Rwarsde 120-50. Solari bit Anun 99-83; Boumemouth bit East Dorset 77-88; Cty of Sett bit Frome 83-78; Nallssy bit Bristol 89-72, Northavon bit Carine Durham 76-73; Christie Miller Moorrakers bit Fosseway 82-81: Towerland 186-78. 72. Northewon bil Clarife Durbar 76-73.
Christie Miller Moonvalers bi Fossewsy 82-81; Taumon bi Yeovil 78-67; Weston St Andrews bi Woodspring 78-77; Mineheed bil Ilminister 79-77; Doryat bi Mid-Devon 85-58; Bridgwater bi Wellington 122-57.

BUDAPEST: World emaleur championshipe: Quarter-finale: 61kg: A Lebzas(Fluss) bt 7 Berowsid (Poll 8-0; Skrix (re) bt
7 Erroto (Bul) 10-9; F Serrat (Fr) bt M
Bengussmia (Alg) 14-7; I Alvarez (Cuba) bt
Y Ozurk (Tur) 13-1 +91kg: S Llakhovitch
(Bela) bt S Umitoelsov (Kzz) 2-2 (re)-break),
G Kandelaki (Geo) bt J F Bergeron (Cari) 73; A Rubelacha (Cuba) bt A Lezin (Fluss) ko
4n. P Vidoz (II) bt Ahmed Abdel Samad
(Egypt) 11-3, Sami-finals: 48kg: R Velasoo
(Phij) bt R Dydl (Slovakia) 7-4; M Romero
(Cuba) bt D Petrov (Bul) 5-3 64kg: W Font
(Cuba) bt S Karaoz (Tur) 9-1; R
Malakhokov (Fluss) bt A Ramazyan (Arm)
16-3, 60kg: A Maletin (Fluss) bt Shin Eun
Chul (S Kor) 15-10; T Ummen (Mong) wo K
Gogoladza (Geo) 67kg: S Dzincinuk (Ukr)
bt M Sinton (Rom) 12-4; O Sahov (Russ) bt
J H Stern (Cuba) 5-4, 75kg: A Hemendez
(Cuba) bt J Petrov (Ger) 7-5; Sing: R
Chegeev (Uzb) bt M Hanles (Ger) 12-7; F
Sawon (Cuba) bt T B Tornsen (Den) ret 3rd.

FOOTBALL

ISOLITH AMERICAN BUPER CUP. Group one: Cruzwiro (Br) 2 Boca Juniors (Arg.) 1; independiente (Arg.) 2 Colo Colo (Chile) 2. Group (w. Velaz Sarsfield (Arg.) 3 San Pablo (Br) 3.

Pablo (Br) 3.
Thuraday's late results
BURDFEAN CUP WINNERS CUP: Second round, first leg: Tromso (Nor) 3
Chelsee 2. ABK Albers 2 Sturm Graz
(Austina) 0. Sheldridh Donaldik (Urr) 1
Vicence (ti) 3. Rode JC Kerlorade (Holi) 2
Primorja Adovisione (Stoventa) 0; Nose (Fr) 2
Savis Prague 2; Germinal Elemen (Bel) 0
VB Stutigert (Ger) 4; Reel Belts (Sp) 2 FC
Copenhagen 0.
PONTIN'S LEGULE: Prumber of Maloric
Everton 4 Liverpool 3. Cup: Group three:
Darby 2 Walted 1.
FA YOUTH CUP: Third qualifying round:
Greet Waltering 3 Kings Lynn 2. Greel Wakening 3 Kings Lynn 2. FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier divisions Councies 1 Drophede 1.
BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Fluminanense 1 Corristians 0; Patrieiras 3 Alifero Permenose 1; Behra I Internecional 4.
BOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP: Group two: Flemenge (8/) 3 Olempia (Par) 3.
Group three Racing Cub (Arg) 2 Vasco de Gama (8/) 3; Santos (8/) 2 Hiver Piete (Arg) 1. Group from: Gromb (8/) 2 Estudiantes (Arg) 2.

(Arg) 2. SCHOOLS MATCH: Premier League Tro-phy: Under-18: Hertfordshire 2 Bedford-strie 2.

MADRID: Old Pre-Am: Leadens after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 133: P McGinley 66, 87; M Campbell (NZ) 67, 66, 135: F Roca (Sp.) 65, 70; R Russell 68, 69, P chart (Sp.) 67, 68;

M.A. Jiménez (Bo) 67, 68, 136; R. Bosail 64, 72; J. Lomas 67, 69; D. Smyth 69, 67, 137; W. Piley (Aus.) 71, 66, G. Turner (NZ) 69, 68; J. Priero (Sp) 67, 70; G. Evans 70, 67; H. Clerk 70, 67; J. Pymen 69, 69; P. Lawin 71, 66; 38;; J. Spence 69, 72; P. Hamington 72, 69; M. Mouland 65, 73; I. Geardo (Sp) 71, 67; P. Spiand (Swe) 69, 68; 3. Cage 70, 69; S. Ames (Thin) 71, 67; J. Rivero (Sp) 65, 73. LAS. VEGAS: PGA Invitational: Leadura after two rounds (United States United States) 128; W. Gaysson 63, 65; W. Mayland 65, 63; 128; W. Gayson 64, 65; S. Lowery 65, 63, 130; K. Gibson 64, 65; S. Lowery 65, 64; 130; B. Fabel 64, 68, 131; E. Tryba 68, 65; P. Mickelson 63, 63; W. Lavi 68, 65; 128; M. Calcanecchia 68, 69, K. Sufharland 69, 63; T. Demosy 65, 64; T. Woods 68, 64; E. Johnson 67, 65. Other score: 148; A. Lyle (GB) 74, 74

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 2 Tempe Bay 2 (OT) New Jersey 2 Montreel 1 (OT): Ottawa 2 Piorida 2 (OT): Priladelphia 4 Catgary 3; \$1 Louis 4 Vancouvet 1: Phoesis 4 Washington 3 (OT): Lois Angelsa 1 Delical 4.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Dengers 58 Sehop Vesey's 12; St Edward's, Oxford 67 Magdalen Coll 12.

BOURNIEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CEN-TRE Grand Pric Cuarter-Grais D Daio (Wales) bt C Small (Scot) 5-2; J White (Eng) bt M Price (Eng) 5-0.

IPSWICH: 16 Inpper; 1, C Lous (losetch) 27ps; 2, M Loram (Bradford) 16; 3, S Nicholis (Ipswich) 14; 4, T Gollob (Pol) 14; 5, K Tatum (Peterborough) 14; 6, S Parker (King's Lynn) 14.

KUWAIT: POW championship: Final: P Nicol (Scot) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-6, 12-15, 16-17, 15-8, 15-4 MELBOURNE: Australian women's Open: Cuarter-finals: E Ivvrg (Aus) bt C Ouers (Aus) 2-9, 9-0, 2-9, 9-7, 9-4; P Beams (NZ) bt C Jackman (GB) 4-9, 4-9, 9-4, 9-1, 9-7; S Fitz-Geraid (Aus) bt C Nitch (SA) 9-2, 9-2, 9-1; M Martin (Aus) bt L Joyce (NZ) 9-4, 9-0, 9-1

9-1; M Matter (was) is Ladyou (see 3-7, 3-7, 3-7).
9-0
SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group 8:
Hartidge Chichester 5 University of
Wales, Cardiff 9 (Chichester names first N
Dugan bit M Benjamin 10-8, 9-2, 9-1, P
Genever bit G Tippings 3-8, 9-6, 9-8, 9-7, Y
Hams bit P Alen 9-5, 2-9, 8-10, 8-6, 9-7, Y
Vall bit G Webber 9-1, 10-8, L
Charmen bit J Wells 9-0, 9-0, 9-0).

TENNIS

7. 7-8, 7-5, M Larsson (Sue) bt F Sentions (Fr) 6-3, 7-5, T Martin (US) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-3, 6-4. Quarter-finals: P Korde (C2) bt M Rics (Chile) 6-3, 6-4; J Bjoristran (Swe) bt N Klefer (Ge) 6-4, 6-4; J Bjoristran (Swe) bt N Klefer (Ge) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5; A See (Sr) bt J Buritio (Sp) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; A See (Sr) bt J Buritio (Sp) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; A See (Sr) bt L Hernera (Mex) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; J-A Martin (Sp) bt A Herneradez (Mex) 8-3, 4-6, 6-4, LLDEMBOURG: Women's tournerment: Second round: A-G Safott (Fr) bt K Hebissichove (Shovele) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; S Appaintens (Be) bt H Sukova (C2) 6-3, 6-7; 6-2, 8-4 K Shudenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Fr) 7-6, 6-3; K Shudenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-6. Quarter-finels: Studenitova (Shovelda) bt K Po (US) 6-7, 6-8. Shovelda) bt J Trai 6-9, 6-7, 6-3; M Walinwright and A Tordotti bt J Trai and L Kalvaria 6-7, 6-1, 6-1; Tordot ft K Rahvaria 6-4, 8-1; L Latimer bt S Methery 4-6, 6-1, 6-0). Yet and the control of the

No reservations about Little Indian

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

LITTLE INDIAN can thwart the group three Solario Stakes and should set things up his more fashionably-bred riat Sandown, which points to nicely for LITTLE INDIAN. his more fashionably-bred rivals in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster today - and rates one of the best each-way beis of the year at around 7-1. The Sean Woods-trained runfrom Tracking, the useful Henry Cecil-trained colt. ner, well bought at only 21,000 guineas at Tattersalls sales last year, boasts the best form in a race in which there are

Little Indian is a son of Little Missouri, a little-known sire yet one who has produced a classic winner. Little Missouri was an admirably tough race-horse in the United States who won \$500,000 and eight races from six furlongs to [4 miles. Retired to stud in 1988, he is hardly a household name among breeding pundits, but he has produced his fair share of pattern winners, most notably Prairie Bayou, who landed the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of the American Triple Crown, in 1993.

question marks against sev-

eral leading fancies.

A fast-finishing third on his debut at Newmarket, Little Indian duly justified strong support when again finishing strongly to win at Haydock in July. Next stop was Good-wood for the Champagne Stakes, in which he again stayed on particularly well to finish a close third behind the smart pair, Central Park and

However, it is the form of his latest start, when he won

NEWBURY

1.30: Swing Sister showed her 25-1 winning debut at

Nottingham last month was

no fluke when running on

strongly to finish a good second to Social Charter in a

conditions event at Leicester II days ago. Mihnah rel-

ished the mud when win-

ning a York maiden by five lengths from Love Academy

(winner since) and will ap-

preciate today's extra fur-

long. However, Bristol

Channel looked above aver-

age when winning a maiden

at Leicester last month and

the form has worked out

well, With Barry Hills's juve-

niles in top form, the Generous colt can make the

is well treated but always

seems to find one too good.

Arbuthnot: high hopes

Mithali, proven on easy ground, has won two non-

handicaps but looks plenty

high enough in the weights.

Strazo, effective making the

pace or coming off it, has shown his best form on a

sound surface — unlike Prince Of Denial David

Arbuthnot's runner disap-

pointed on fast ground in the

Cambridgeshire. but

bounced back on good

ground at Newmarket last

Saturday when overcoming a poor draw to be a strong-

finishing sixth behind Gulf

Shaadi. Today's extra fur-

2.30: Kaliana can enhance

Cumani-trained runner was

a smooth winner of the

Galtres Stakes from The

Bedtime (both winners since)

before a creditable effort on

long should suit.

necessary improvement.

his chance this afternoon. Outpaced turning for home. he relished the finishing climb and produced his distinctive strong run to grab the spoils

John Dunlop's well-regarded Haami, who finished third, subsequently captured the list-Somerville Tattersall Stakes at Newmarket, while fourth-placed Sharp Play, beaten almost fourth lengths.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LITTLE INDIAN (3.40 Doncaster) Next best: Bristol Cannucl (1.30 Newbury)

had finished second to King Of Kings and subsequently was beaten just over three lengths in the Royal Lodge Stakes. Moreover, fifth-placed Celtic Cavalier was an eye-catching second to King Of Kings in the National Stakes, in which he received a tender

Given his style of racing, Little Indian looks sure to appreciate the step up to a mile — and the likely strong pace will suit him. Both Kilimanjaro and Mountain Song are best with forcing tactics

Bristol Channel to

continue tide of

success for Hills

Olivier Peslier, the outstanding French jockey, has been booked to ride.

Mudeer, winner of his two outings despite swishing his tail, is open to further improvement over this trip and holds each-way claims, although the Godolphin runner. may lack the necessary class. The Alec Stewart-trained Mutamam has impressed on both starts but - significantly his two victories came in slowly-run races and his form could be suspect.

Kilimanjaro looked a topclass colt in the making when winning in the mud at Sandown but failed to create the same impression on a faster surface in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot, where he was niggled along early on. The Michael Stoute-trained runner was held up that day, but is likely to race more prominently here.

Apart from Little Indian, the only runner with group winform is Saratoga gs, who won the Springs, who won the Beresford Stakes at the Curragh last Sunday on soft ground. The Aidan O'Brientrained runner had earlier returned a smart performance when landing the Acomb Stakes at York. In between. however, he had his limitations exposed behind Daggers Drawn at Doncaster.



هكذامن ريامل

Saratoga Springs represents Ireland in today's Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster

DONCASTER

1.40 Sense Of Wonder 2.10 Billy Bushwecker 2.40 Crowded Avenue

4.15 MONTE LEMOS (nep) 4.45 Zerpour Timekeeper's top rating: 1.40 BURNT YATES.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 QUIET ASSURANCE (nep). 4.15 Deterrent, 4.45 Invermark.

1996: BROUGHTONS ENROR 7-11 J Com (*G-1) W Maccom 18 mm

(24,078: 1m 21 GOyd) (15 runners)

20: (14) 2245020 SILLY BUSHMACKER 17 (G.F.S) if Divid, Mrs. V. Newley 6-9-7

20: (12) 0002000 SPRAN THE RELEST I (G.F.S) if Divid, Mrs. V. Newley 6-9-7

20: (19) 1250000 MARFUL 12 (B.CD.F.S) (C.Burber-Lamon, Mrs. 1. Percet 5-9-4. ... M. Kenhady

20: (15) 1050000 MARFUL 12 (B.CD.F.S) (C.Burber-Lamon, Mrs. 1. Percet 5-9-4. ... M. Kenhady

20: (15) 1050000 MARFUL 12 (B.CD.F.S) (C.Burber-Lamon, Mrs. 1. Percet 5-9-4. ... M. Kenhady

20: (15) 1050000 MARFUL 12 (B.CD.F.S) (C.Burber-Lamon, Mrs. 1. Percet 5-9-4. ... M. Kenhady

20: (16) 0450005 ZHAC 19 (D.F.G) (R.Burber, Mrs. 1-9-1. ... S.D.Mandol

20: (17) 0151101 SPREMSTONE 10 (C.D.F.S) (R. Green Anthropy), M. Percet 4-8. ... M. Kenhady

20: (10) 1101 SPREMSTONE 10 (C.D.F.S) (R. Green Anthropy), M. Percet 4-8. ... M. Kenhady

20: (10) 436000 MRSS REVIEWS (R. Percet State Anthropy), M. Percet 4-8. ... M. France

21: (2) 150-050 PICKER 50 (R.) (Den Smith Industrial State Anthropy), M. Percet

21: (4) 4047046 FRILLS GRADUESS 3 (S) France Corn Anthropy 3-8-6. ... D. Percet

22: (4) 4047046 FRILLS GRADUESS 3 (S) France Corn Anthropy 3-8-6. ... D. Percet

23: (4) 4047046 FRILLS GRADUESS 3 (S) France Corn Anthropy 3-8-6. ... D. Percet

24: (4) 4047046 FRILLS GRADUESS 3 (S) France Corn Anthropy 3-8-6. ... D. Percet

25: (11) 06000 APPLETON'S FANCY 11 General Corn Anthropy 3-8-6. ... D. Percet

26: (11) 06000 APPLETON'S FANCY 11 General Corn Anthropy 3-8-6. ... D. Percet

RETTING: 2-1 Brightonia 6-1 Cont For A Borron, 7-1 Bibly Sucrescion: 2-1 Boson The Risks, Deliveral, 10-1

1990 BREAK THE RILLES ASA'N CASH (FL. 344 SALS) 15 to

Long handlager Spenter 6-5 Lond High Adminst 8-4 (Au 3-2) BETTRIG. 7-1 Crontick August 5-4 Peoples days Sachs Storm, 10-4 Annelman Teisse Ab Storp, Septem Micron Compute Heart 12-1 offers 1996: SHANGRAN GRZ, 2-8-7 0 P Michael 10-4 S Lodie 13 ran

BETTING, 7-4 or Mail, 5-2 Seria Care 4-1 Care Edge 6-1 Begant Johnny, 5-1 Krystere, 33-1 Peace Of India

1996 DEFERRIT 4-3-12 - Care, -1-2-3-20 Sept 6-78

FORM POCUS | Cool Edge 4% Eth to Acced Fing in 77 Carrage group III states (good to scales) (good to scales) (good to Satisfact in 1 for Resonantes) (good to firm) Prince Of India 171 less of 15c, for 1 for 1 for the prince Of India 171 less of 15c, for 1 for 1 for the prince of India 171 less of 15c, for 1 for

C4

2.10 CORN EXCHANGE CLARING STAKES (\$4,078: 1m 2i 60yo) (15 runners)

2.40 DONCASTER WRITERS RATED HANDICAP (£8,266, 5f) (22 runners)

3.10 RACING POST CONDITIONS STAKES

(£7,643: 71) (6 runners)

DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.40 JOCK MURRAY MEMORIAL NURSERY HANOICAP (2-Y-0: £6.164; 71) (15 runners)

| 101 (3) 1342x3 SEA MARIC 70 (S) R Perburduy B HHIS 9-7 K Fridger
| 102 (1) 65f PLORAZ 20 (D) P Wedding J Curdop 9-7 MJ J Strage
| 103 (1) 65f PLORAZ 20 (D) P Wedding J Curdop 9-7 MJ J Strage
| 104 (14) 32 (400 L00 07 (P) (G Read 8 HIS 9-8 M W Easterby 8-8 M Perburd
| 105 (7) 5400410 BURNIT TATES 12 (D,0) (I Bray M W Easterby 8-10 M Perburd
| 106 (8) 66 (600 WMARKY 36 (P) W Murban Mr J Famesics 8-9 M Perburd
| 107 (7) 0730 WE COUNE SUBSET 20 (S) (G Goldand 3 J Straton 8-9 M Loudew 16)
| 108 (12) (433323 WCHALDWS 9 (D,0) (G Winhaper Lodge Perc) 1/3 Britan 8-8 M D Martangh (7)
| 108 (12) (433323 WCHALDWS 9 (D,0) (Marting B British Straton 8-7 B Perburd
| 109 (19) 080000 O MARTON PREFERENCE D (1) 2 (6) (Goldand 3 J Straton 8-8 M D Martangh (7)
| 108 (19) 080000 O MR D (1) 2 (6) (Gold British Straton 2 (9) B Martangh (7)
| 108 (19) 080000 O MR D (1) 2 (6) (Gold British Straton 2 (9) B Martangh (7)
| 108 (19) 080000 O MR D (1) 2 (6) (Gold British Straton 2 (9) B Martangh (7) TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION when fifth in the group one 100 (10) OBDOTO PRACTORIAN GOLD 2 (6) (Gold Brists Syndexis 20) R Histon 8-7 O Product 100 (10) OBDOTO PRACTORIAN GOLD 2 (6) (Gold Brists Syndexis 20) R Histon 8-7 O Product 100 (10) 10000 PRACTORIAN S (6) (10) Series 5 Stress 6 of Exactly 6-7 T Laces 86 (11) (2) OCCUPATION OF THE PRODUCT OF THE STRESS FOR THE STRESS FO Prix Vermeille. The but Anchor filly should appreciate today's going. Salmon Ladder won this race last year from Kutta but Busy Flight, not disgraced in the

generation. DONCASTER CHANNEL 4

Arc. is the best of the older

2.00: The consistent Consort 3.10: In a race with question marks against most runners, the in-form Jo Mell is the percentage call. Tim Easterby's progressive handicapper recorded his best effort when winning comfortably for today's rider at Ascot last time and a reproduction of that form would suffice. Swiss Law has claims judged on his run at Goodwood when first past the post but the Godolphin runner disappointed last time and Elegant Warning may pose the biggest threat. This group-placed filly was not disgraced behind Kahal

3.40: See above.

4.15: Deterrent overcame traffic problems to score in a conditions race at Salisbury and the form was boosted when the runner-up. Toblersong, obliged at Yarmouth on Wednesday. Reg Akehurst's runner reopposes on identical terms and there is no obvious reason why he should reverse the form. Monte Lemos, who appears to need good ground, looks the biggest danger.

4.45: The well-drawn Zerpour has plenty in his favour. Winner of a Newmarket maiden before flourdering on false ground at York, Luca Cumani's runner the excellent record of fillies did particularly well over an in this race. The Luca inadequate ten furlongs last time, just failing to hold the progressive Mithali. Kieren Fallon deserts Veridian in Faraway Tree and Book At favour of Invermark, a good second at Haydock last time.

RICHARD EVANS

3,10 Swiss Law

3.40 RACING POST TROPHY

SETTING: 7-2 followers, 9-2 filation, Savings Springs, 5-1 blottmann, 6-1 Edite Indian, 7-1 Conjected, 10-1 Managine Serg, 15-7 Made Resource. 1990; MEDAALY 9-0 G Had (14-1) S No Street 9 to 6 (good). Order Assurance heat Consolvent Bay 136 in 7f Neuman Springs best Harcans 4f in 1m Currey group & stakes (act).

LITTLE INDIAN has shaped as though this trip will sent and can continue his progress 4.15 CHAPLES SIDNEY MERCEDES BENZ DONCASTER STAKES (Listed race: 2-Y-O: £9,227: 60) (10 runners) | Commonstrates | Commonstrate

BETTING: 3-1 Delayant, 6-1 Monte Larens, Maryans, 7-1 Classificity, Special Treat, 8-1 Hepton, Steeden, 12-1 1996: BLEGNAT WARNING B-4 R Halls (9-4 bay) B Halls 7 sas

Contention to the Toblersong (levels) 141 in 6f Salisbury status (good), Husoom best Premium Parset 141 in 6f Apr. russery (good to sol). Months Lembs best Reste A Ring 1141 in 6f Apr. russery (good to sol). Months Lembs best Reste A Ring 1141 in 6f Newmartest Denser Drises 151 in 6f Yarmesth states (good). Collegering best lated states; (good). Toblersong best states states; (good it solf). Denserbations to best the Downtown Fox 11 in 6f Hearmester sursery (good to solf). Denserbation to sold; the sold in 6f Hearmester sursery (good to solf). Denserbation to sold; the sold the sold to sold; the sold the sold to sold; the sold the sold to sold the s SHAWIDON, samplely beating sincles hap weight in a Neutralies receive call go one ballo

4.45 LADBROKE HANDICAP (£13.013 1m 4f) (18 runners)

(£13,013 101 4f) (18 rumbers)

1 (2 1919-24 GREENSTEAD 14 (F,S) (Shelch Microscore) J Gascon 4-10-8 ... L Debind 75 (4) 1101-201 TESSAUCE 35 (0.F,D) (Silery Partnershop) M Carrosch 5-9-7 ... L Channock 93 (1) 5780711 CAPLANO PRINCESS 36 (F.F.G.S) (M Cology D Imple Joses 49-7 S Drowne 40 (4) 6-10-2 SEPTOLR 20 (BF,D.F) (H R H Aga Hard 16 SE) CE-14-7-2 ... J Wasser 94 (10) 1-90-200 ODS PETTIC 42 (E.F.D.F) (H S M Machine Pathershop) I Adding 3-9-1 ... A MicRoss 97 (MS - 321-0 PEMORE WEST 17 (F) (C Wright) D Adoubted 49-0 ... J Partners 96 (10) 1-90-200 ML ADMR 27 (G.F.D.) (M Modition Pathershop) I Adding 3-9-1 ... A MicRoss 97 (MS - 321-0 PEMORE WEST 17 (F) (C Wright) D Adoubted 49-0 ... J Partners 97 (MS - 321-0 PEMORE WEST 17 (F) (C Wright) D Adoubted 49-0 ... J Partners 97 (MS - 321-0 PEMORE WEST 17 (F) (C Wright) D Adoubted 49-0 ... J Partners 97 (MS - 321-0 PEMORE WEST 17 (F) (C Wright) D Adoubted 49-0 ... J Partners 97 (MS - 321-0 PEMORE WEST 17 (F) (C Wright) D Adoubted 49-0 ... J Partners 97 (MS - 321-0 PEMORE WEST 17 (F) (W S - 321-0 PEMORE S Backed A - 331-0 D Dang Medicine (MS - 331-0 D Dang Medici Loss handow Carl Liberts 3-9 HM Face Pines 7-8

1995. HEMRY ISLAND 3-9-2 G Miligan (14-1) G Vitago 19 pm

FORM FOCUS

Greenstead 161 4th to Ascal in 114m Ascal bandicap (theory) Installing for the Ascal in 114m Ascal bandicap (theory) Installing for the Ascal in 114m Ascal bandicap (good to fesse). Capitanto Princess bed Rathel County 161 in 114m Ayr bandicap (good to see 12m). Capitanto Princess bed Rathel County 161 in 114m Ayr bandicap (good to fee). Doppon 751 2m2 to Middle in 116m Leicester states (good to fee). Doppon 751 2m2 to Middle in 116m Ascal transfer (good to fee). Doppon 751 2m2 to Capitanto 116m Ascal transfer (good to fee). Doppon 161 160 to 116m Ascal transfer (good to fee) 2m1 115m Double Alleged 614 6th to thiny in 115m Neumanhel bandicap (good) Debriather Days 2m1 7m1 to Double Alleged 614 6th to thiny in 115m Ayr Doppon 161 160 to feel) the feel and 115m 115m Population 1 m1 15m Population 1 m1 15m Population 1 m1 15m Population 1 m1 15m Agriculture Days 3 cm to Garga in 116m Refers handicap (good) with McCallycardby Reeds (Reeds) 81 3th Capitan for 116m 16 Depoint or 116m Ascal argainers handicap (leavy) 1 hill Form Bloes 40 2nd to Walshis Sands in Leid Agri bandicap (gott).

COURSE SPECIALISTS 22 S

BETTME: 5-2 Depoir, 2-1 (securate, 8-1 Caption Princess, Version, 18-1 Al Adris, Plackanda, 12-1 Secretical, Tecalyst, 14-1 class.

ZESPOUR chough smart from over an madequate trap last time and is load to oppose

Last chance

BRITAIN has a final chance tomorrow to avoid a whitewash in this season's major overseas classics. Double Eclipse, remning his last race. Bahamian Knight, Camp-orese, Further Flight, Grey Shot and Snow Princess represent this country against Ireland's Oscar Schindler in the Prix Royal-Oak (French St Leger) at Longchamp.

If all six are beaten it will be the first time since the early Sixties that Britain has failed to land a classic in Ireland or France.

THUNDERER 3.40 Distant Mkrage 4.10 Once More For Luck 4.40 Perfect Harmony 5.10 Respond 3.10 Kalieria 60ING-600D TO SOFT . DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST BBC1 1.30 Furlong Club Radley Stakes (Listed race: 2-Y-O: £10,495: 71 64yd) (13 rumers) OCIG AMAGEL 21 (CD.S) (6 Standardon) (Buicing 8-11 ...
610 ADMSRE 44 (6) (Miss 6 Kollensy) 6 Kollenny 8-8 ...
21 ARCTIC ARR 37 (D.S) (7 Scotland E Woymel 8-8 ...
21 BRISTOL CHANNEL 46 (7) (K Abdula) 8 Hijs 8-8 ...
21 COURT LAME 12-(5) (South Modration of D. Loder 8-4 ...
6110 PESSONOG 83 (F.S) (Ethe Racing Chile) P. Colle 8-8 ...
41 ERISSON V WARRAIMS 94 (F.S) (Albie Sentera Place) 1. So CTIO PRESTRUCTO ESS (F.S) (ETRO FRACING CANO) P COSO 8-8-1
214 PRESENCE WARRINGS 31 (D.S) (ABLE France Plack) J Burles 8-1
2 LERSEPHA 45 (RE.) PA (ABLE F.) FRACIS J Durley 8-8
10 MAYLAN 15 (Sparich Connection) D Hyde 8-8
400.SUMMER ROMANCE (* Wardingler) B Months 8-8
10 BEPGAN 17 (S) (I all Abstracts O) Montry 8-8
11 BEPGAN 17 (S) (I all Abstracts O) Montry 8-8
12 SWING SETTER 11 (G) (Liub) Burnishi P R Walther 8-8

MAHENAH's from this been beesled by Love Academy and her stable is in fine form

2.00 RECRUIT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES RATED HANDIC BECT (28,484: 1m 1f) (15 runners) (7) 3008035 WILCUMA 14 (9.CDLF.S.S) (7 Warns) P Makin 6-9-7 A Clark
(7) 8018011 MITHAU 20 (F.S.) (4 a-Makinorn) B Hits 4-9-2 Maris Dayer
(8) 0012400 AMOTHER TIME 14 (CDLF.S.) (5 adheus) 5 Woods 8-9-13 Maris Dayer
(9) 6-50120 SREF 35 (BF.S.) (4 Balcared) D Savetis 4-8-18 R Hando (3)
(10) 502401 STRAZO 22 (F.S.) (F.Rabil) Laby Herbar 4-9-13 R Cockrave
(13) 0881240 COMESR UN 22 (F.S.5) (Mass L Ward) 5 C Williams 5-8-12 J Davin
(13) 0881240 COMESR UN 22 (F.S.5) (Mass L Ward) 5 C Williams 5-8-12 J Davin
(14) 0881240 COMESR UN 22 (F.S.5) (Mass L Ward) 5 C Williams 5-8-12 J Davin | 130 D081240 CONCER LIN 22 (F.G.S) (Mate L Ward) S.C WWinces 6-8-12 J Opini (5) CENTON ROST WING 13 (S) (CIT Cardogard W Harn 3-4-12 T Spraise 99 G-41080 WFLTON ARSENUL 107 (F.S) (Business Formal & Busines 5-8-11 Paul Eddary 14) 8-82 CH4-10 15 (N Visce) J Old 7-8-11 Standers 1-10 Standers 1-10

BETTENS: 5-1 Seaso, 7-1 Millional, Cornect, 6-1 Right Wing, Zultzine, Prince of Denial, 10-1 Griel, Concer Un. 12-

Minimal best Zerpour V-11'in 116'm Lelosster status (good to firm).

Strazo best Midyan Call 2' in inn Neumankel status (good to firm).

Strazo best Midyan Call 2' in inn Neumankel status (good to firm).

Minimalian in 7' Neumanket handicap (good to firm). Right Wing best The Wild Widow 1941 in 1m Age states (good) Chal-Yo 2' 2nd to Ghaffa in 1m Ascot status (heavy). Zalitzine 541 3rd to Burg Bentons in 14'm Chershow status (good). Comport 16'l 3rd to Juny-Owe-Two In 1m Neumanted hundicap (good to soif). Prince Ot Dunial bi Bih to Buff Shaed in 1m Neumanted handicap (good). FORTH WING hex coers to hisself of late and this looks within his comp

2,30 PERPETUAL ST SIMON STAKES (Group III: £21,300: 1m 4f 5yd) (11 runners) SETTING: 3-1 Busy Flight, 4-1 Kallers, 6-1 Kudu, 13-2 Hallang; 7-1 Subten Ladder, 8-1 Texton's Molecky

L. (15-1 Mars.)

1996: SALMON LADOER 4-9-0 T Delco (17-2) P Cole 12 Rm

BUSY FUGET thrives during the actump and can gain his biggest price

3.00 STAFFORD KNIGHT CONDITIONS STAKES 61 KDMSTAR 18 (F) (Cless Ad) P Hents 9-3 A Clerk
66 ALAZAN 86 (Spareth Connection) D Hyde 8-11 6 Sanders
2 DESTART BRANCE 37 (BF) (F Sangesar) P Chiappie-Hyum 8-11 R Havin (S)
EVANDER (A Speciment) P Cale 8-8
T Dorina
STENSRAY (A) J Philinghor) M Johnston 8-8 M Hills BETTONIC: 5-6 Distant Mirage, 3-1 Novelske, 9-2 Evender, 11-2 Stingsey, 33-1 Alexan 1990: TEMPTING PROSPECT 8-6 D Harrison (8-1) Lord Hacileydon 7 sun

3.30 JOHN COALES 70TH BURTHDAY CLAIMING STAKES

| 730: 1811 41 3y(0) (9 FURRIES) | (3) 24-6391 | RAISE A PRIMIZE 112 (5) (Dr F Charl) S Woods 4-9-5 | 3 Sandars (1) | (3) CLORICE (National Official) B Ingorm 3-8-11 | 7 Spreads (1) CLORICE (National Official) B Ingorm 3-8-11 | 7 Spreads (1) CLORICE (National Official) B Ingorm 3-8-11 | 7 Spreads (1) CLORICE (National Official) B Ingorm 3-8-11 | 7 Spreads (1) CLORICE (National Official) B Ingorm 3-8-10 | 1 Clor BETTING: 1-1 Once More for Lock, 7-2 Midden Blue, Story Line, Raise A Prince, 6-1 Projecti, 6-1 others 1956: ROYAL DRIPSSIGN 3-8-7 Spatia (6-1) Dandoy 16 on

4.00 DICK DAWSON MURSERY HANDICAP

(2-Y-O: 25,345: 6f Byd) (19 runners)

1 (12) 1225034 SABOOTH SALING 14 (8.5) (A Particle) X Michaelle 8-7 A Coltanno 00 14 (12) 11 (22) 1225034 SABOOTH SALING 14 (8.5) (A Particle) X Michaelle 8-7 A Coltanno 100 14 (13) 14 (14) 25 TEMPUS FURST 10 (6) (Respons) B Matthews 9-5 A Firmach (2) 64 (14) 25 TEMPUS FURST 10 (6) (Respons) B Matthews 9-5 A Firmach (2) 64 (14) 25 TEMPUS FURST 10 (15) 25 TEMPUS FURST 20 (15 SETTING: 6-1 Material, 7-1 Robin Goodfellow, 8-1 Mountaine, 10-1 Smooth Salking, Puly Blue, 12-1 offers 1980: YCRRIC GEORGE 9-3-0 Urbaya (4-1 bar) L. Currani 13 par

4.30 LEVY BOARD MURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-0: £3,649: 7f 64yd) (14 runners)

12 (12) ZUS FLYING BOLD 9 (ARS H Lery) W BARK 9-0 WENTED LWYST
13 (1) 6554001 MARY-FLA 9 (D.S.) (J. Gale) J Armold 7-12 R Financh (J.)
14 (CU) SUSS SAMPOWER LADY 34 (Sampower Backing Cuby) W Musson 7-11 J Gurinn
SETTEMOR 5-1 Batton, 6-1 Hight Vigil, Avilla Al Dawn, Tajroll, Borand Tu Piotae, Pire Goddens, 9-1 Others.
1990: KANSER KACHE 9-0 G Linbau (20-1) R McAndille 19 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS 174 14 61 15 21 4 21 4 21 3 30 6 19 4 281 207 28 158 90

RACING NEXT WEEK

RACELINE

TUESDAY: Laicester (1.30), Redoor (1.05), Chattenham (1.40). WEDNESDAY: Yarmouth (1.20), Chefferham (1.10), Fontwell Park (1.30) THURSDAY: - Nottingham (1.30), Sedgefield (1.20), Stratford (1.40).

DONCASTER 101 NEWBURY 102 CARLISLE 103 DONCASTER 101 201 NEWBURY 102 202 CARLISLE 103 203 MKT RASEN 104 204 WORCESTER 105 205 FRIDAY: Newmarket (C4, 12.50), Bergor (1.10), Wetnerby (1.35).
SATURDAY: Newmarket (C4, 1.00), Ascor (BSC, 12.50), Wetnerby (C4, 1.240), Kelsor (12.45); Welverhampton (AM, 7.00). FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168 IRISH LOTTERY RESULT 0930 162 441



Whitaker striding for perfection

It is small wonder that dashing

devil-may-care types are so few

Talking

when the tiniest errors are so costly alf a million quid is not a half-decent dressage rider, but a sensible sum of

money. The thought of hands — worse, of having one hand on the cheque — would bring out the compulsive talker in most of us. But John Whitaker has never subscribed to the view that fancy phrases make a horse jump higher. He's a g'doss."

This weekend, Whitaker is in Monterrey, taking part in the Udird leg of an event called the Pulsar Challenge. He has already won one leg; if he wins this weekend, the

that he will get both hands on the a forementioned. half-million. But the horse. Grannusch, might ever-so-gently ca-

trailing hoof and cause the pole very lightweight and shiftable these days - to roll in its supporting cups — very shallow and eager to shed their. poles these days and plop apologetically to the ground.

The sound of falling timber behind your back is the death-knell in cricker. In showjumping, it is

magnified a thousand times. For mattered. But if Whitaker hears withat sound this weekend, it will mean goodbye half-million — an extreme example of the professional showjumper's life; the timest of errors followed by the greatest of punishments. It is hardly surprising that you don't get dashing. devil-may-care types in showjumping anymore.

Now I am going to reveal a secret, to let out one of the great hidden truths of the entire horsey. freemasonry. It is not hard to be an adequate showjumper. Not if you anyway. It is very hard indeed to be still fit and brave and trusting.

really not to hard to showjump passably well. There is a point when it suddenly becomes twice as difficult, and that is 3ft 6in. From that point, the difficulty starts to double and double again. Bravery and balance will only get you to about four feet. You need real horsemanship after that Real, deep and precise horsemanship.

It is called, in the jargon, "se a stride". At the low level, this is really (though don't tell anybody I said so) something that the horse does. That is to say, the horse works rolling prize-money system means. out where to take off for himself. At

> ing a stride is what the rider does. This is because of a strange, unap-preciated fact about horses. They can't see the jump. Horses are flight animals and depend on their panoramic vision to spot the dangers. This comes at a price they have blind spots, the biggest just in front of them. Once they are in front of a jump, they literally canjumping game, they rely on the

mation -- obtained from the sighting a couple of strides before they actually reach it. At the elite level, the horse learns to depend on the instructions of the rider and, therefore, must be taught to trust. This can only come from a rider's periect trustworthiness.

Every stride is calculated. The horse takes off at the point his rider has decided. And not a pole is touched - unless the rider has got it wrong, or failed to communicate clearly, or the horse has failed to understand, or if the horse has been, simply, careless, Dropped a backleg. Sound of falling timber. Goodbye half-million:

Of course a horse must be



Whitaker is the master of all he surveys as he shows the gentle side of his nature that has helped to keep him firmly in the forefront of the showjumping world

They all are, too, in every elite discipline. But to be a good showjumper, a horse needs to possess the gift of care. To be better than good, he needs a level of care that borders on finickiness: he must have a strange distaste for letting any one of those lightweight little es come into contact with his

You can wallop a cross-country fence, and it won't fall down. It will not punish the rider, not if the horse gets over, but it will punish the horse. Hitting a solid fence at speed hurts. But a showjumping fence is a soft, forgiving thing. Care. "You can't school it into a horse," Whitaker said. "Horses reach a

good level in showjumping because they are naturally careful."

'hitaker is a deceptive man. The man-of-fewwords persona is marrow-deep, but it is not surliness, defensiveness or hostility - just his way. A pity, then, that it makes him come across as an unreconstructed hardcase, a machine for winning: unsympathetic, ruthless to his horses, unforgiving. It comes as a surprise, though it shouldn't, to hear him talk of the most important attribute for a good showjumper."Being a good loser is the hardest, most important thing," he said, "You lose more than you

win, and you mustn't show the horse that you're upset. You often see it: riders getting upset with their horses after they've had a fence down. Makes it worse. The horse doesn't know what he's done

wrong. It is ironic that a decline of interest in showlumping in this country - the sport is booming in Europe - has coincided with the domination by perhaps the finest practitioner of the sport that the country has produced. Whitaker suffers a little from the Pete Sampras Syndrome: mere excellence is not enough, at least not for the floating voters of sport. They want a theatrical nature as well.

And at least with Sampras, the excellence is obvious. With Whitaker, even more than with most showjumpers, the excellence is hardly visible.

At the highest level of riding, you are seeking to put in the correction before the error has occurred. Whitaker, gifted with giving hands and quiet manner, is one of the great riders who do absolutely nothing, or seem to. The correction came six strides before the fence, and it was too slight for anybody to notice, except the horse.

Showjumping is an increasingly precise and technical sport, more so than dressage, in a wat. Horses are not better than in the past, but there

the Vodafone Horris Hill Stakes in the highest esteem as

a signpost to the classics.

at 33-1 for the 2,000 Guineas -

preferring, at 25-1, the claims

of Zaya, who had won a

humble maiden at Doncaster

This was such a family affair that it was surprising not to see an "s" quickly engraved on the Horris Hill

trophy. Michael Hills took

command on Sensory two out.

but his twin brother, Richard,

was sitting motionless on La-Faah. This was partly because

he was short of room, but he

also had plenty in hand of

those around him - as he

demonstrated when bursting running him."

earlier in the afternoon.

are far more very good ones. The sport is competitive as never before. To gain some kind of edge, and to maintain it, from one good horse to the next to the next, as Whitaker has done with Ryan's Son. Milton. and now Grannusch, takes something extraordinary.

Oh yes, to win at showjumping, you need a g'doss. And you need one hell of a horseman, too. But to stay there, year after year, you need something beyond that. And you can guess at what this might be, from the laconic hints Whitaker is perfectly prepared to drop. You must know — even when there is a half a million quid at stake — when, and above all how, to lorgive.

"The winner has a lot more

speed," Hills senior said. "The

only time he has been beaten

well on this easy ground so we'll have to bring him out early and see if he is good

The race's damp squib was

Duck Row. James Toller end-

ed a splendid season in chas-

tening fashion when the uneasy favourite, having failed to settle, found nothing

when ridden, beating just two

home. "He ran a bit flat," the trainer said. "Some of my

horses have not been right, but

he was working okay. I sup-

pose it would have been better

to be cautious and I regret

enough for a Guineas."

Family ties secure

Newbury victory

By Chris McGrath

HAVING saddled first and through at the furlong pole

second yesterday, it is safe to and pulling 13 lengths clear at assume that Barry Hills holds the line.

Bookmakers, by contrast, was at York, when the knavesmire really was a they had witnessed at Newbury that Coral quotes La-Faah, the decisive winner. Was at York, when the knavesmire really was a mire." Angus Gold, racing manager to Sheikh Hamdan al-Maktoum, added: "He goes

THUNDERER 1.50 Sandabar. 2.20 He's Got Winge. 2.50 Pentlands Flyer. 3.20 Four From Home. 3.55 Lord Of The West, 4.25 Superiop. 5.00 Valtatie. GOING: FIRM (BOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) : 1.50 great bable hovices hurble .

4-6 Sandator, 4-1 Savendale Lad, 6-1 Spanish Verdick, 7-4 Lord at The Lord, 14-1 Spiders Delight, 20-1 Hos For Tee MS, 33-1 Grog, 50-7 Elessa. 2.20 SADDLEBACK NOVICES HURBLE (£2,458: 2m 4f 110yd) (6) 1 -851 DON'T FORGET CURTIS 14 (0) Min K Lamb 5-11-5

2 35-2 Jeannes Property 14 J 1 Trans 5-10-12 ... Il Machinh (5)
8 2 He'S GOT WRISS 43 M Fell 4-(0-11) ... Il Machinh (5)
8 2 He'S GOT WRISS 43 M Fell 4-(0-11) ... Il Machinh (5)
9 WHINTHEN T 20-1 Years 4-10-17 ... Il Machinh (5)
9 WHINTHEN S 4 Mass I Rousait 4-10-17 ... A Thomber of 0 Provider Paris 11 Mars Santa 6-10-7 ... R Wildows (5)
1-4 Ha's Got Wings, 7-4 Jamele's Property 8-1 Deat Forgal Carles, 8-4
Nacentranat, 14-1 Powder Fein, 20-4 Windham, 2.50 MALCOLM GALLETLY BOTH BROTHDAY CELEBRATION NOVICES CRASE (£3,5\$4: 2m 4f) (7) ELEBRATION NOTICES OF STATES AND ADDRESS STATES OF STATE

P. Carborry
P. Car BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Market Reserv: 2.15 Opera Fan. Princely Alfair. Donosster: 4.15 Cloudberry.

3.20 LADBROKES LUCKY CHOICE HANDICAP HURDLE (52,234: Sm | 10yd) (5)

1 F-41 BALE AHEAD 22 (D.F.G.) 6 M Moore 2-11-10 B Sterny
2 16-5 IGNDA GROOV 25 (B.F.G.) 1 Part 8-11-2 N Smith
3 -822 POLE FROM HOME 15 J Crose 5-10-12 P Carberry
4 6-5 ROYAL CROUS 11 (F.G.) P Michie 8-10-11 A Codelin
6 00P1 BEHRERA 22 (F) J Michie 5-10-10 R Sepple

3.55 COMBRIAN HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,557: 8m) (3) 1 3141 PAYELSON SURLOS 15 (CO.F.S.5) Mas L Russii 10-12-0 2 : P25- LOBO OF THE WEST 228 (D.F.O.E) J J O'Ne® 8-11-1 P Carborry 3 4972 SOAPENES BOHOOL 18 (B.F.O.E) C Parier 10-10-0 D Perier 11-10 Lord Of The West, 5-4 Physiologic Ballets, 4-1 Boarding Sebsol.

4.25 OLD MAN OF CONJETON HANDICAP HURDLE (\$2,689; 2m 10) (6)

1 431- DOWN THE FELL 203 (D.F.S.S) J Howard Johnson 8-11-13 P Carbo 7-4 Dona The Fell, 5-2 Cottage Prince, 3-1 Superlop, 7-1 Highland Way, 10-4 Monion, 50-1 Datic Foundate.

5.00 GREAT DOOD STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035; 2m 11) (6) 1-2 Vallagia, 4-1 Solettie, 10-1 Silip Anny, Mr Kalburna, 20-1 Tuzo, 33-1 Mill Ban.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

2.15 John Tufty. 2.45 Cheryf's Lad. 3.15 Couchant. 3.50 James Pigg. 4.20 Traceability. 4.50 Galen. 5.20 Peacemaker.

2.15 CALDERPRINT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (\$1,828; 2m 1f 110yd) (8 runners) | 1902 XAIPETE 31 (N.F.) N Mason 5-11-13 | R Buest 2 4168 DPERA FAN 34 (V.S.5) K Margan 5-11-5 | P Monts (2) 3 409 PRINCELA AFFER 7 (8) EBP 3 Stadley 4-11-3 | R Dumenody 5 000 AFBCAN SUN 37 M Charman 4-10-5 | W Wortlington 6 63Py LOGIE 514F N Bubbage 5-10-0 | W Marran 7 300 DAKRERY SF Mass 1. Sacket 5-10-0 | T Sacket (7) 8 0030 PORT VALENSKA 17 (8) J A Harts 4-10-0 | S Taylor (5)

2.45 UK HYGHENE FOR SMOKE FILTRATION NOVICES CHASE (£4,133: 2m 1f 110yd) (6) 9-4 Hote Warrior, 7-2 Peopletian, 4-1 Tech Bootie, 9-2 Charyt's Lad, 5-1 String Edge, 18-1 Royal Grinson.

3.15 KAREN & ALAN STONE WEDDING DAY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,085; 3m) (5) 8-4 Couchant, 2-1 Copper Coll, 4-1 Smith Too, 10-1 Postsvecks, 20-1 Mocalchim, 3.50 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,323: 3m 1f) (5)

2-1 Highbods, 5-2 Ricssill Bay, 7-2 Plans Guiner, James Pigg, 8-1 Hermes Harvest 4.20 UK HYGIENE FOR HANDRIERS MAIDEN HURBLE (£2,947: 2m 1f 110yd) (20)

5.20 CALDERPRINT AUTUMN MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035: 1m 5f 110yd) (17) COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER 2.35 Northern Drums. 3.05 Brazil Or Bust. 3.35

2.35 CITY & COUNTY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (52,189: 2m) (7 renorts) 1 1182 HONE/GED WOOD 23 (CD.F.A.S) M Seepard 9-11-10 L Aspel
2 00-5 WHITE WILLOW 18 (D.F.A.S) Y Mail 8-11-1 ... X Algues
3 PFS ASTRAL NEWASON 157 (B.D.F.) I Wall 8-11-1 ... J Montant (S)
4 311 MORTHERN DRIAMS 9 F) M Pipe 4-11-0 ... G Stepple
5 SH2 GALWAY 9083 90 (D.G) WHIEROS 5-10-12 ... E Hustand
6 SSB- LANDRA 7F G L Moore 5-10-11 ... M Batchelor (S)
7 SSD- GASTING GOLD 189 (D.F.R.) Price 5-10-7 ... D J Montanegh 4.20 (2m hdle) 1, Mistly Cay (R Thomton, 4-5 key); 2, Silver Secret (11-6); 3, Methwood (8-1), 7 ran, 6l, 2t, Miss V Ward, Tota: \$2.00; \$1.10, \$2.50, DF; \$2.60, CSF. 9-4 Northern Drums, 3-1 Colony Boss, 7-2 Hoosylved Wood, 8-1 Hantra, Fastlet Gold, 12-1 Wilton Willow, Astral Invasion

3.05 JOHN BURKE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE S-4 Bestil Or Bast, 7-4 No Light, 9-4 Signa Run.

☐ The Tote Jackpot was again not won yesterday, and, with £233,260.94 carried forward, the pool could top £350,000 at Doncaster unday.

NOVICES HURDLE (£2,443: 2m 2f) (6)

(£3,782: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

THENTERNATIONAL TERMS OF THE TE **OVER 2 WEEKENDS**

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Doncaster Going: good

2.00 (7) 1, Zaya (Paul Eddery, 9-4); 2, Legal Lunch (18-7); 3, Käcuher (8-1). Jonn Regent 2-1 tov. 12 en 21, 1941. S bin. Surcot. 10st; 53:10; 51:20, 51:30, 52:70. DF 083.70. Trior £123.30 CSF: £33.63. 2.30 (7) 1, Nan't Y Garner (C Lowdesr, 7-1), 2. Davis Rock (8-1); 3, Caudillo (16-1). Plan For Posit 440); 4-1 fev. 22 ran, 34, 34, 19 fev. 10 fev. 22 ran, 34, 54, 50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52-50, 52 3.00 (fm), Marchess (J Carroll, 11-2); 2. Saver Phepacoty (2-1 avr), 2 Pourry (2-1); 18 ron. - Tel., 334; 5 bin Surrour, Tota: 211.37 (2.30, 21.70, 21.50, CF: \$14.00, Trio (8.80 CSF: \$15.76.

3.20 (Im 8! 132yd) 1, Jaseph (C Loucher, 10-1); 2, Shance in Count (25-1); 3, All On (14-1); 4, Campaspe (10-1). Moon Colony 100-30 lav. 18 mm. Ni. 31 K Marvil Tue Colons as 65 pc 23 D 4.00 (Int) ; Parama House (G Duffield, 20-1); Z Duffield (H 4 fax), 3, Winss (13-2):14 (art); 4, Skt T Basharby, Tols: 12-150; 53-40, 21-80, 52-20, DF: 263-00. The 2132-00. CSF 504-38. Tricest 4.30 (Int); 20-20.

Tricast \$42.82
5.00 (71) Cohony Ritz (P Fessey, 16-1);
2. Lagerid CR Austinn (20-1); 3. Ving Uno
(4-1 tag) Farry A Fortuna (20-1); 22
(5-10) Sulfi ST-80, UF 5285-40, Titor
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Newbury Going: good

2.10 (7) 1, Victory Team (R Studholme, 11-1); 2, Jana (8-1 Ffac); 2, Tafis Well (8-1 | Fac); 4, Scissor Ridge (20-1), 23 ran. NR: Lunch Party, 18, Int. G Balding, Total 21280; 52-70, \$1.50, \$2.20, \$2.80, DF: 527.60, Tito: \$43.10, CSF; \$73.32, Tricost

, 2403.21. 3.10 (7 64yd) 1, La-Fash (F Hills, 9-7); 2. Sensory (10-1); 3, Victory Note (9-2) Duck Row (8th) 7-4 fav. 8 ran, 14(1, 8 Hills, Tota: 26.00; 22.20, 22.20, 22.00, DF: 219.30, CSF: £78.26. Title: \$8.00; \$22.0; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$1.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3.00; \$3

2204.20. CSF. 2225.7. Incase: \$2,013.05.
4.40 (Im 22 6yd) 1, Moweiga (D C Stea. 12-1); 2, Ricardo (100.50); 3, Mary Cui (50-1). Steadarn 11-10 fav. 14 ran. NF. Putria. Seporatura. Sp. hd. 2%1. Lady (Hardes. Tota: \$21.90; 52.80, 51.40, 51.77. DF: \$20.00. CSF. 246.52. Tro: \$255.00.
5.10 (618-yd) 1, Mister Rembo (M Tebbuti, 20-1); 2, Fri-Eq. (11-10 fav); 3. Uplithing (15-2, 24 ran. Nr. 17/1. B Mechan. Tota: \$252.0; 278.80. \$1.40. \$29.0. DF: \$100.10. Trio. \$107.30. CSF. \$22.38.
Jackpot: not wan (pool of \$233.280.94 Jackpot: not won (pool of \$233,280.94 | carried forward to Donquister today). | Placepot: \$369.20. | Quadpot: 953.50.

Fakenham Coing: good
2:30 (2m hole) 1, Highty Reputable (R
Durwoody, 4-1); 2, Fied Light (11-2); 3,
Sylvan Sabre (11-2), Dubel Doly 3-1 lev. 8
ran, NR: Scorched Air, Sh hd, 1%I, 6
Bravery, Totar 55:50: 52:10, 51:90, 52:50.
DF: \$21:290, Tric: \$107.70, CSF: \$24:57.
Tricast \$211.42. 250 (3m 110/d ch) 1, its Unbellevable (M Durne, 7-2); 2, Cyrif Henry (13-9); 3, Joker Jack (8-1), Ch So Henry 8-4 feet, 4 ran, MP, Newhelf Prince, 3/4, dat. P Eccles, Toter 25.10, DF: 64.00, CSF: 59.06.

3.20 (2m 110)d ch 1, Peace Lord (J F Titley, 8-13 tay); 2, Highland Flame (33-1); 2, Spring Surrise (7-2), Sran. 8t, 211 Mrs D Haine, Tote: £1.80, £1.40, £7.10. DF: £33.70, CSF: £14.23. 3.50 (2m hote) 1. Noble Tom (A Maguire, 7-4 fav); 2. Signily Special (10-1); 3. Holdram Bay (25-1), 9 nar. 14, 2. Holdram Bay (25-1), 9 nar. 14, 2. E. Coles, Tote: 22.0; 51.01, 52.20, 53.80. DF: £3.40, Trio: £140.40, CSF

4.50 (2m.5i 110)d ch) 1, Menor Miso (A.P. McCoy; 4-1); 2, Rush's Boy (2-1); 3, Kipperour (10-1), Sexon Meed (1-10 tev. 5 ran. 5; dat. G.Prodromou. Tota; 25.40; £1.50, £1.30. DF: £5.80. CSF: £12.11. 5.20 [2m fiet] 1, Laredo (C Scudder, 7-4); 2, Missed Call (5-2); 3, Vicar's Vese (6-4 (84), 6 ran. 21, 81, N Chance, Tota: £3.00; £1.50, £2.10, DF.£4.80, CSF, £6.49. Placapot: £188,40. Quadpot: £9.00.

COURSE SPECIALISTS THURISHE D McCalaine. 27 sincers from thit remort. 20.15. M Pipe. 46 from 155, 29.5%, P Nicholis. 14 from 57, 24.6%, P Hobbs. 26 from 125, 29.5%, P Hobbs. 6 from 55, 17.1%.

JOCKEYS: (1 Aspell. 4 witness from 15, 17.1%.)

100.1142, 17.5%, A Magalin, 31 from 182, 17.5%, D Monts, 7 from 42, 16.7%, E Haskind, 3 from 21, 14.3%, L Haney, 9 from 77, 11.7%.

1 552- SPAZI OR BUST 270 (D.F.S) P R Wester 6-11-10 C O'Onyer 2 2211 NO LIGHT 15 (CD.F.G.S) A Tamell 10-11-8 L Harvey 3 5531 SIGMA RUN 8 (E.D.F.G) J O'Sen 8-10-13 M A Proposald

 $4.50\,$ LLIMAH INTERNATIONAL / PARK SOCIAL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,573: 2m 6i 110yd) (9) | RUPEL SCHARS THE BOY ST. (F.G.S.) N Mason 11-11-10. R Guest
| 16-3 FAR AND FAMEY 84 (B.S.) N Mason 11-11-10. R Guest
| 16-3 FAR AND FAMEY 84 (B.S.) Mass M Militiga 8-11-9. L Wyer
| 3 F145 KONS OF SHADOWS 42 (D.G.) A Hallinsheat 10-11-2. Rany Lyons
| 4 G8-2 GALEN 11 (RF) Mas M Rombey 8-10-13. P Mayon
| 5 GV3-STANBOL OF SEDECESS 25 D WYBERS 6-10-11. Mr 8 Durack (7)
| 8 ZISB WALLS COURT 7 (E.F.G.) J Biddet 10-10-1. Mr Middoney
| 7 SAD TUDOR FELOW 589 J Wale 8-10-0. A S Small
| 6 M4-GAVASKAR 441 (F) A Steeler 3-10-0. W 6 Ellion (8) 9-4 Gales, 7-2 Johns Toe Boy, 9-2 Walls Coust, 11-2 King Ol Shadowi, 13-2 Symbol Of Success, 7-1 Fee And Fancy, 10-1 Gentsler, 16-1 others.

TRANGERS: C Mann. 5 winners from 16 namers, 31 3%. / Pearce. 6 from 20, 30,0%; K Bashy, 14 from 47, 29.8%, D Nicholson, 7 from 25, 28.0%, M Pipe, 16 from 66, 24.2%. JOCKEYS: G Badley, B winners from 22 roles, 36.4%, A P McCoy, 16 from 45, 35.6%, C Dewellys, 5 from 21, 23.8%, J F Titley, 6 from 28, 21.4%, D Bridgester, 9 from 46, 19.6%.

3.35 SUZAKNE KIRBY EBF NATIONAL HUNT 1 23-5 CERTAIN SHOT 22 (BF) 6 McCourt 6-11-0 D Bridgweler
2 LIFE'S WORK P Hobbs 5-11-0 5 f Tomey
3 00- MCHIGAN BLE 175 W Jenks 5-11-0 T Jenks
4 P-P PARAMEUNT LEADER 128 D Marts 5-11-0 D Gallagher
5 1/ ROWNGTON 85 (6) D Nicholson 6-11-0 A Magaine
6 BRAVE PRIZED C M Hicks 5-10-9 V Stationy 8-15 Rowington, 7-2 Certain Shot, 4-1 Life's Work, 16-7 Michagan Blue, 25-1 Transport Certain, Bluer Wheel.

4.10 PVC CHALLENGE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,740: 2m 4i 110yd) (3) 1 GPUS STROWS TARROLIN 9 (8.5) P Nichols 7-11-10 ___ 7 J Murphy 2 /15- HIGHEAND JACK 324 (6) A Turnel 7-10-12 ____ C Ree (7) 3 R12- PLAN-A 175 (8F,F) it Alayer 7-10-7 ____ P Holley 6-4 Plan-A, 7-4 Highland Jack, 9-4 Strong Tempora.

4.40 FRED RIMELL MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE 1 1-21 NORTHERN STAPLICHT 2 (D.F.G.S) M Pipe 6-11-4 C Mende 2 /13- DOMTLEAMENDEST 364 (G) R CARS 7-10-12 D Mortis 3-6 JALCANTO 21 (D.F) R Lackes 7-10-12 S Wymo 4 38-3 MORSTOCK 12 (G) R Hodges 7-10-12 T D 1-2 Northern Starlight, 3-1 Mosslock, 13-2 Confissivethenest, 14-1 Act in Two 16-1 Julicanto.

5.10 LADDIHOKES HANDICAP HUNDLE 1 300- DOPHESS GET 113F (G.S.) M Planus 8-12-0 W Marston 2 PS2- SOLDAT 165 (S) D Nicholson 4-11-3 . A Margine 3 1F-5 SLUPER STAMMORD 14 (B.D.6.) T Foster 7-10-3 . 8 Wylano 4 14-1 CASSIOTS BOY 14 (CD.6.S.) G McCourt 6-10-2 . D J Mothalt

10-11 Soldet, 7-2 Cassio's Boy, 9-2 Eupress But 5-1 Silver Saudard.

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97P Audi S6 Auto Estate. Volcano leather/alcantara s/seats. climate control, cruise, p/s/roof, twin electric /load. b/l/w. r/locks. 17 a/w. £37,995

96N Audi A8 3.7 Sport Emerald Green, anthracits leather s/scats, timate control. e/seats pack. cruise. cose. h/l/w. t/locks, solar roof. 10cd. 18"a/w. 20,900ml £34,995

97P Audi 2.6SE Antomatic Estate. Ming Blue, aqua velour interior. /bags. extra rear scats. alloys 4,680mls

97P Audi A4 TDI 110hbp quattro Avant. Blue Pearl. blue s/scats. abs. climate. pas. traction. f/armrest. b//w. ofo pack, r/rails, alarm, comp a/w. 10,480mls £24,995

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77P Andi A3 T.Sport. Laser Red. coyx eather s/seats, climate control, abs. raction, p/s/roof, r/locks, bose, h/seats. Mwash. 6od. comp alloys. 7,700mls

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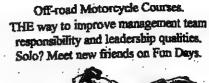
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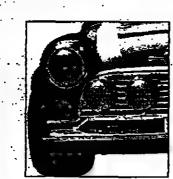




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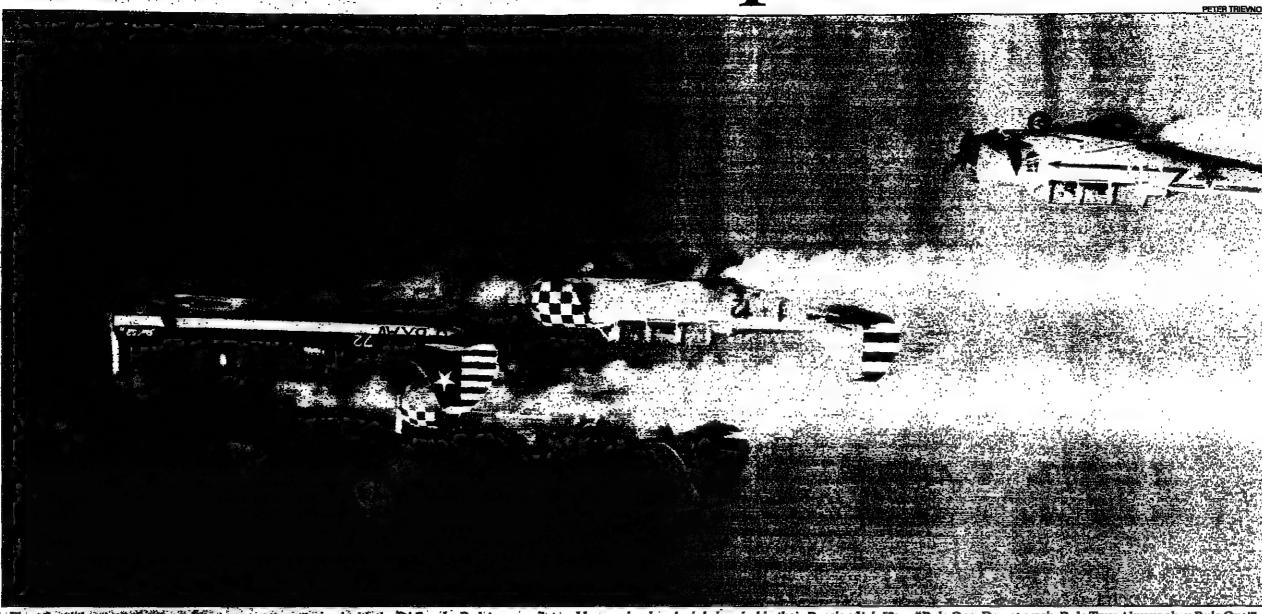
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

Aerostars do it upside down



Stuart Birch meets five amateur acrobatic arrmen good enough to take on the world's top daredevils

ach of the five men appeared to be in serious pain, shuf-fling across the grass in a group, heads rolling or craning backwards, eyes raised to beaven. Each held his right hand at waist height. fist clenched. Suddenly, they turned in tight circles before wo broke away, circled on their own with quick, short steps then rejoined the others. The leader was issuing a litany of orders: "Run towards Aces High, pulling ... go; break ... go; complete loop, wingover, right reversal into

cateroillar It may seem a strange way for grown-ups to spend a Saturday afternoon, but Mark, Geoe, Andy, Jeff and Garry go through this balletic equence almost every time they meet. They are the Aerostars, an amateur aerobatic troupe - three of them just have an ordinary Private Pilot's Licence (PPL) — the like of which probably does not

exist anywhere else in Europe. Their individual flying expe-rience ranges from 7,000 hours to a relatively brief 330. but the flying five loop, roll, climb and dive their rugged Russian Yak-52 ex-military trainers as one.

And next year they plan to contest the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale Aviation Grand Prix in Switzerland — smateurs appearing among some of the world's top

They take their hobby very seriously. Before they go whirling around the sky in tight formation, the Aerostars always walk together, simulating every roll, loop, twist and nura and each radio call of their 12-minute show, right hands clasping an imaginary stick, thumbs pushing imagi-nary radio talk buttons. "Going through the motions" on foot is vital.

The results in the air are impressive. With a combined engine capacity of 50 litres, the five Yaks': Ivchenko radial engines are orchestrated into a thunderous rumble as they move smoothly through the carefully rehearsed routines towards a smoke trailing, high-g-pulling finale called

"Red Star Burst": Although in aerobatic terms. each Aerostar is an amateur. there is rather more to them. than that. Leader, Mark Levy (7,000 hours' flying time) is a British Airways' First Officer who flies Boeing 757s and 767s. Gene Willson is not only a commercial aircraft pilot (7,000 hours), but also manag-ing director of Titan Airways based at Stansted. Fortunately. BA and Than passengers are unaware that their pilots



Willson, Hammond, Sharp, Stow and Levy: "We compromise between what looks impressive and what is achievable"

are only really happy when flying upside down.
The three PPLs are Andy Hammond (450 hours), once a rock musician, now a director of construction and computer software companies; Jeff Stow (850 hours), an industrial heating technician who currently . runs his own property maintenance company, and Garry Sharp (330 hours), who specialises in recruiting directors to a wide variety of company

There is a huge disparity in experience between us, but we have all trained to the same standard." Garry says. "We believe we are the only amateur team in Europe doing

formation aerobatics." A cornerstone of that training has been with RAF fighter flying instructors on courses organised by Anthony Hutton of The Squadron at North Weald, Essex, where the Aerostars are also based. They don't come any better

than these RAF pilots," says Mark, "We have even had a Red Arrows pilot training us."

Having low total hours is not a problem for aerobatic pilots, he insists: "Most people with 300 hours will have been sitting quietly flying between one cup of tea and the next, but our team members with PPLs have spent most of their time in formation aerobatics, much of it at the controls of a Yak." Gene sums up what makes

first-class aerobatic pilot:

"Discipline and consistency in flying and the ability to complete the same precise routine

time and time again." Before forming the Aerostars, the five pilots competed against one another in air races but decided they wanted something more challenging. Did they all fly smoothly when they started work on their display last winter? There is a great guffaw of laughter. "There was a steep learning curve!" admits Jeff. But they Ground plan: "Going through the motions" on foot is vital

YAK-52

Engine: Ten-litre, nine-cylinder supercharged 360ho Ivchenko radial.

Performance: Never-exceed speed 270mph; cruising speed 150mph. G-limits: +7 to -5.

Fuel consumption: in cruise, 13 gallons per hour; aerobatics, 20-plus gallons per hour. Price: £37,000-£40,000. About £150 an hour to fly.

all have great confidence in each other.

With day jobs and families. finding time to practise is always a problem. We'll never rival the Red Arrows," says Mark. "We compromise between what looks impressive and what is achievable with a limited amount of practice. This sort of flying is very satisfying."

Next year, the five Aerostars plan to become seven, with the addition of two very experienced amateur pilots, Mark aerobatic champion, and Richard "Fred" Bassett. They, too. will join the soft-shoe shuffle rehearsals before every formation flight. The "dance" routine may look zany but it is a major element of safe precision flying. Andy Hammond sums up the point of it all as he prepares to step out towards the clouds: "Rule One: Do not crash. Rule Two: Always obey

checks are carried out by one of the

PFA's 320 inspectors or the CAA Statistics indicate that flying is becoming safer. In America, there

are half the number of accidents involving non-airline planes than there were 10 years ago. There are 622,000 pilots active now in the US," says Drew Stekete of the

International Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association. "Of all acci-

dents, including fender benders, there were 9.257 in 1947 compared

with about 1,800 last year."

Build your own plane in safety

Deaths such as John Denver's are rare accidents, reports Eve-Ann Prentice

Denver has focused attention on the safety of home-made aircraft such as the one the singer was flying when he nosedived into

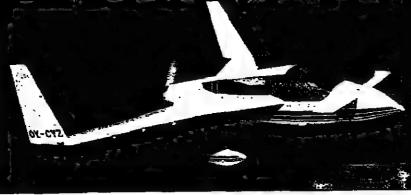
California's Monterey Bay.

The futuristic, Y-shaped Long-EZ was an upmarket version of the sort of plane put together by thousands of enthusiasts in back-

Yards and garages. Costing from as little as £3,000, home built aircraft are an increasingly popular option for people who no longer see flying as the preserve of the super-rich. There are around 1,200 home built planes licensed to fly in this

peculation about the air country and around 170 British crash which killed John models to choose from Across the world there about 500 types of home-made plane and one of the most popular is the British-designed Europa, costing £45,000-

£50,000. The quickest kits can take about three months - if you are not working," says Anthony Pres-ton of the Popular Flying Association, the organisation which inspects home-built aircraft on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority, to which most home build pilots belong. "Against that, three in five years is typical and some of: them are a labour of love which goes on for 20 years or more."



Michael Fopp, director of the RAF Museum at Hendon has been making his own Lance Air aeroplane for the past six years: The Wright brothers built their own aeroplane, so i feel i am in good company. People who build their own aircraft are the opposite to what most people think, we are



Kai Christensen's Opus 3, based on Bert Rutan's Long-EZ design, left, and the latest model from the British-designed Europa

very meticulous."
Of the home-built aircraft flying in Britain, 18 are Long-EZs and none has been involved in a

serious accident. More than 22,000 home-built planes are registered with the FAA in America, including around 1,000 Long-EZs.

Although it is possible to buy a kit or plans and materials for a home-made plane for as linle as £3,000, they generally cost £10,000-£15,000 and can be as much as £50,000, still generally cheaper than factory-built light planes such as Cessnas and Pipers. There are nearly twice as many

home-built aircraft flying in America than there were a decade ago, and the number of home-builts in Britain has increased by a third

every year since 1991, says the PFA. The Long-EZ, regarded as one of the safest and most successful of the home-made planes, was designed in 1979 by Burt Rutan. Denver's was built in Houston, Texas in 1987 and had changed hands four times before the singer bought it from Van Snow, a

veterinary surgeon. Mr Snow, who sold the aircraft for \$56,000

(£35,000), had flown it for 700 hours without incident. Long-EZs are made from plans and templates which are no longer for sale, although versions of the aircraft are still being built by enthusiasts using existing plans. Like other home-built aircraft. they undergo rigorous tests at least

twice during construction before

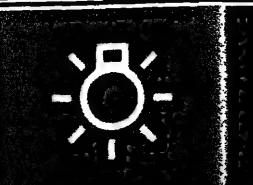
being allowed to fly. In Britain,

n Britain, the CAA says, an average of 14 people have been killed annually in light aircraft

crashes in the past 10 years. Since 1987, 65 people have been killed in airliners and other public transport aircraft. But flying is still by far the safest way to travel — the risk of being killed as an airline passenger is one in ten million, the same as the

chance of being killed by lightning. From the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, more than 21,000 people were killed in car crashes in Britain, compared with 103 who died in UK airline accidents.

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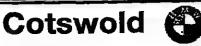
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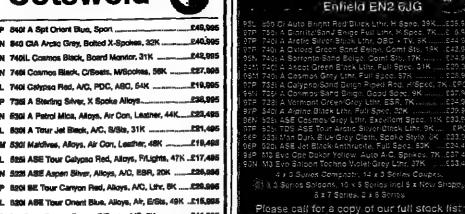
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Have you ever noticed that stale smell from the interior of your car? Cotton, wool, leather and wood will all rot within a very short time if you allow them to get wet and that smell is telling

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and already you have started to protect it from sudden changes in air temperature (the root of

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(if the vehicle is wet) and expell it via the Carcoon's ventilating system, thus keeping the

Just think what this condensation is doing to parts of the car you cannot see.

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Here's a fairly quiet-looking stretch of road. Well no, I can't actually see round that corner or over that hedge, but I daresay nobody's there . . .

In the country of the blind bend

his week's call by Richard Simmonds, chairman of the Countryside Commission, for rural areas to be saved from "the tyranny of the car" is a curious dish, containing elements of pie in the sky as well

some more palatable morsels. Unfortunately, the core issues raised have been somewhat over-shadowed because much of the media attention has been given to the call by the Commission to have fines, road taxes and other drivingrelated revenue paid into a separate fund which would then be used to pay for managing traffic and enforcing speed limits. Dream on. This Government —

and all other governments regard the motorist as a bottomless pit of riches, Bill Gates on wheels, whose hard-earned cashcan be tipped into the vast Trea-

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter

form of cash to fund a wasteful The Commission is absolutely right to say that having speed cameras paid for by local authorities, enforcement carried out by

sury vats to be stirred around and

expelled from the other end in the

reaped by the Treasury is a farcical situation. But the behaviour of those who rule the land has always been farcical: that is why they are in Whitehall. All they lack is a spin doctor called Brian Rix.

There is certainly much to be said in favour of Simmonds's argument that speeding needs to be restricted on rural roads. I am doubtful about his call for some of these roads to be declared car-free zones, because that is bound to cause severe problems for some car owners. If, however, Simmonds means that more residential areas should be declared "access only", that is a sensible step and one that local authorities ought to be pursuing with vigour. I expect readers who live in cities will be surprised to hear Sim-

monds say that "in most country

roads and lanes, it is no longer safe to walk, cycle, push a pram or ride

corner and an accident occurs . . . it will be the non-motorist's problem This is undoubtedly true and

a horse ... drivers assume that, if

someone is in the road round the

partly explains why I have long advocated a specific speed limit for

rural roads. I suggested 35mph, but even that could be problematical when you consider another of Simmonds's points, that "there is still an assumption, a presumption, that you do not usually get caught for speeding and it is quite safe to cruise along at 10 per cent or

more above the limit". The cumulative effect of all this country lanes as if they were oneway freeways.

The situation is not helped by some motoring journalists, fond of euphemisms but careless as to what they imply. Road tests often contain the phrase "press-on mo-toring", which has a sporty, even racy, edge. What it really describes is the car's suitability (or not) for travelling cross-country routes at speeds that are, shall we say, close

to the limits of safety.

We all do it, certainly most men. We care for our families and wish to protect children, ours and other people's, but here is a fairly quietlooking stretch of country road, well no. I can't actually see round that corner or over that hedge, but I daresay nobody's there . . .

This attitude marks the road to hell and, yes, it is paved with good intentions. The issue is a lot easier to define than resolve. There is no chance of littering hundreds of thousands of country miles with speed cameras, but their appearance on most urban roads has tempted more speed merchants off the beaten track, thus increasing the risks in the countryside.

A country walk may still sound an idyllic pursuit, but is best taken by people with steady nerves and eyes in the backs of their heads.



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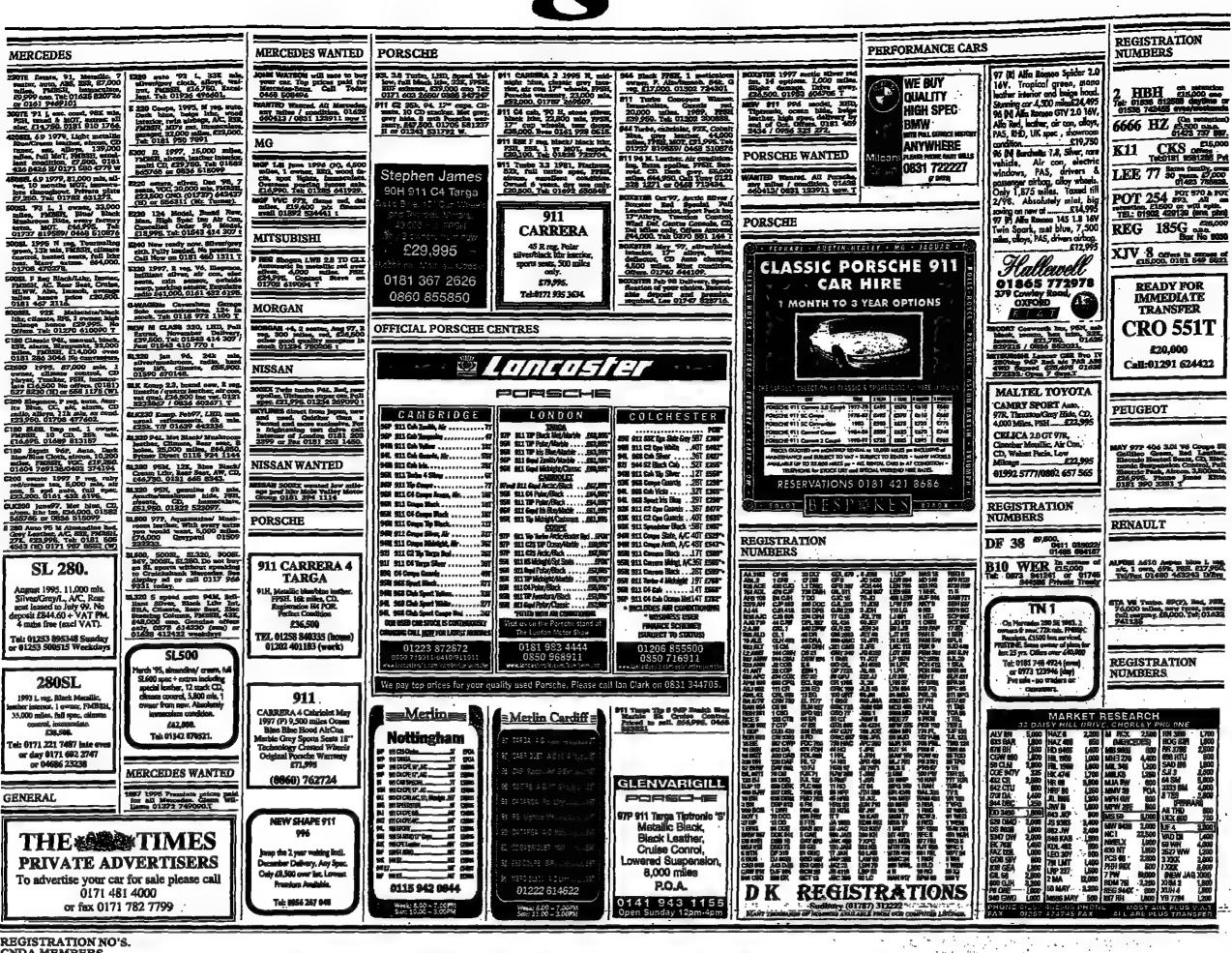
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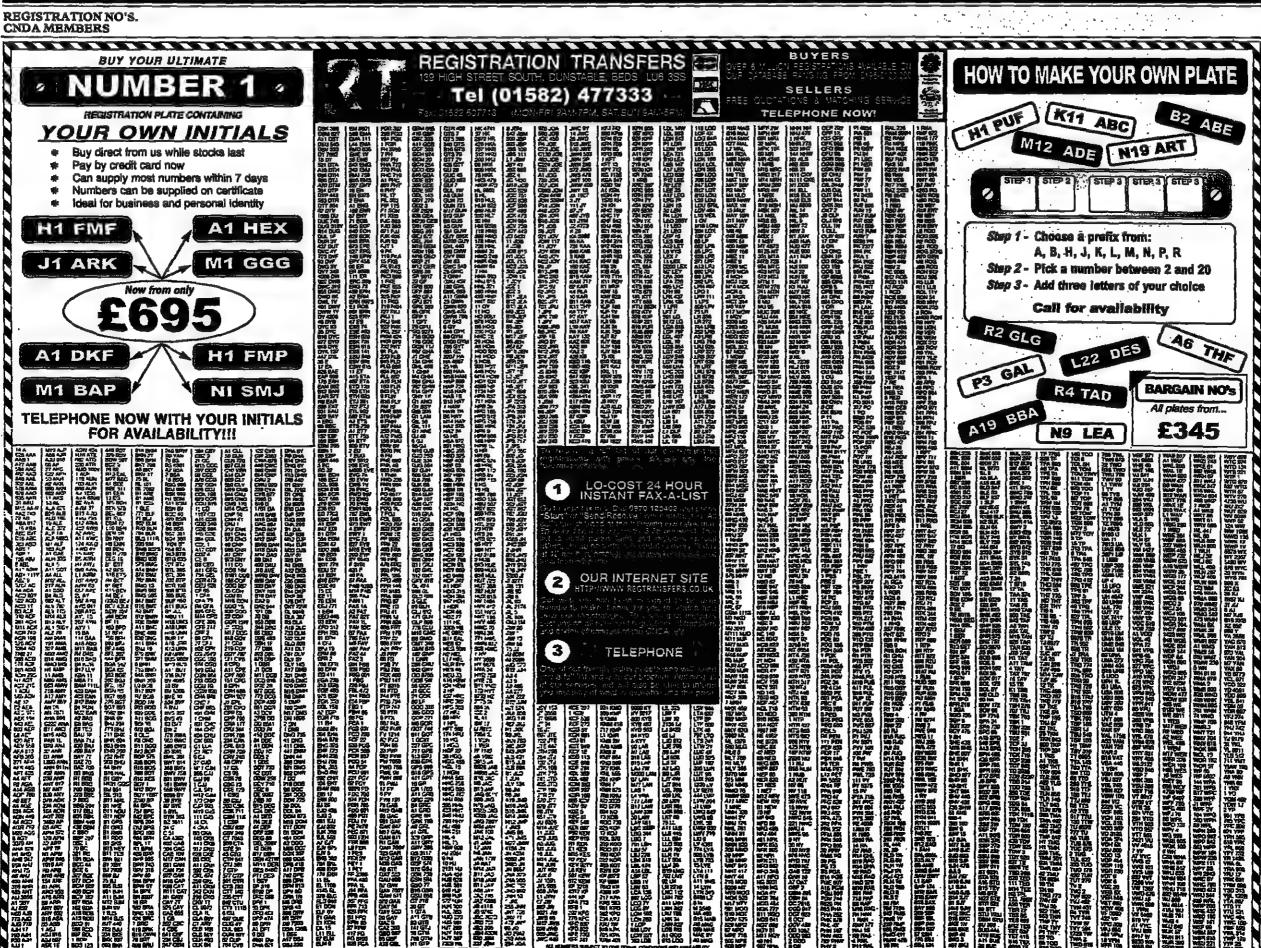
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Vive le Jeep, just 17 minutes late in from Peking

Alan Copps reports on an epic 12,000-mile rally — and looks forward to the challenge of London-Cape Town

ven before the finish of the Peking to Paris Challenge, billed as the longest rally yet for classic cars, entries were rolling in for an even longer event which starts exactly one vear from today. Some competitors on the

London-Cape Town Reliability Trial and 4x4 Adventure Drive (those in more modern vehicles) will cover up to 14,000 miles, against the 12,000 miles that faced the intrepid drivers led into Paris last Saturday by John Bayliss and Phil Surtees in their 1942 Willys Jeep.

No one who followed them in regretted a single mile, least of all Lord Montagu, our own intrepid correspondent, whose 1915 Vauxhall failed early and who required rides in 14 different vehicles to complete the course. But he was delighted to find that his regular des-patches to Car 97 and Go won him a special award for best coverage of the event. It was presented at a glittering din-ner in Paris by fellow classic enthusiast Lord Steel, who had to withdraw from the Peking-Paris event to take part in the Scottish referendum campaign, but who is advising. on the route for the London-Cape Town and is determined

to take part. An astonishing 82 cars out of 97 starters finished the Peking-Paris run, some admittedly having covered sections of the route on trailers, but most having motored the whole way under their own power. In the original challenge 90 years ago there were only five contestants, all dragged by hand at various stages of the journey and four-finished, with the Itale of

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2 1950 Ford (USA) Ctub Coupé (T. Thomas/V. Zannis).
3 1965 Ford (USA) Ctub Coupé (J. Thomas/V. Zannis).
4 1950 Ford (USA) Club Ceupé (J. Jung/A. Vann).
5 1984 Holden EH (G. Crown/J. Bryson).
6 1987 Ford Anglis Estate (M. and Ms P. Broderick).
7 1970 Paylisen Hunter (S.A.L. Javid/H.K. Hedayat).
8 1970 Paylisen Hunter (M. Eljadi/R. Khadem).
9 1960 Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn (K. and Mrs R. Dichti).
10 1970 Paylisen Hunter (V. Kazavani/R. Razzaghi). Touring Category
1 1972 Rover P5B (J Lux/D/ Drew/T Shew)
2 1955 Chewrolet Bel Air (B. and F. Risser/
M. Fortune/G. Wilson)
3 1955 MG MQA (P.L., W.W., S.L. and M.L. Wong)

Team prize Retromobilia Team (1950 Ford Coupés)

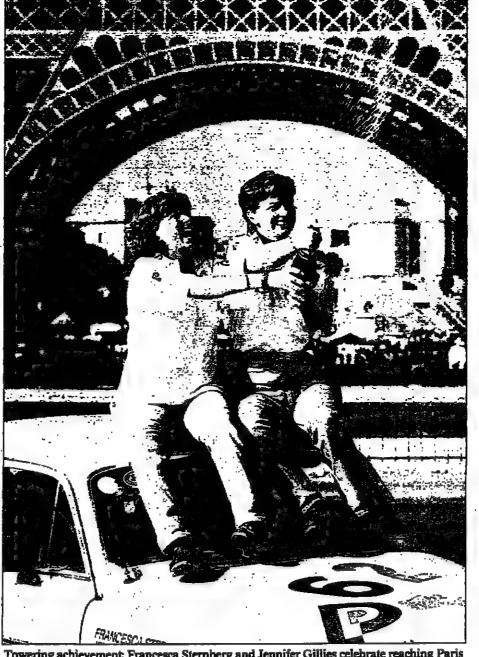
Ladies' prize 1989 Hilman Hunter (L. Dodwell/G. Obert)

Count Scipione Borghese 20 days ahead of the rest The 43-day route this time was quite different, running up to 17,000ft through Tibet

and Nepal and becoming the first rally to cross Iran for 20 years. That the tough old Jeep won was perhaps no great sur-prise, although losing only 17 minutes in time penalties was a remarkable tribute to the skill of Bayliss, from Lechlade in Gloucestershire, and Surtees from Stoke-on-Trent. There were two other re-

markable things about the results, which, let's face it, are less important than the adventure. One was the dominance of Fords, which filled four of the first six places. Two 1950s American Ford coupés won the team prize for the Retromobilia team, named after John Jung's classic car dealership in Dallas. The others were a 1965 Cortina and a 1967 Ford Anglia estate, once railied by David Steel but driven on this occasion by husband and wife team Nigel and Paula Broderick from Comwall.

The other notable performance was that of the Iranian Pevkan Hunters, undated versions of the much-loved old Hillman from the 1970s whose production line was sold off to the Shah as the Rootes group collapsed. An older Britishbuilt Hillman won the ladies' prize for the American pair of Linda Dodwell and Gennie Obert. The British ladies' team of ace horse-rider Francesca Sternberg and dress designer Jennifer Gillies also finished, despite having to practically rebuild their Volvo Amazon along the way. John Bryson



Towering achievement: Francesca Sternberg and Jennifer Gillies celebrate reaching Paris

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who co-drove Gerald Crown's Holden to fifth place must now Anyone inspired by the exploits be one of the most accomof intrepid classic rallyists will enjoy the International Classic Cars plished marathon men, having also finished two London-Show which takes place at the Nat-Sydney runs in more modern ional Exhibition Centre in Birmingcars. And of course there was a ham on November 15 and 16. To mark the event, the organisers Rolls-Royce in the first ten, a plendidly original 1950 Silver together with importers Ripmax and

Dawn from Austria. Moss International, specialists in clas-An accident in Pakistan that sic spares, are offering Go readers a killed two German entrants chance to win a superb Kyosho radiowas the only tragedy in an controlled model of a Mini Cooper Mk extraordinary adventure

over the world THE PEKING to Paris event was one of the most ambitious

Navigating all

international marathons vet. But interest in this branch of motor sport is burgeoning. writes David Steel. There are three main organisations for those interested in this country. The Peking-

Paris was organised by Philip Young's Classic Rally Association, whose most established event is the Monte Carlo rally. restarted in 1990 to recreate the atmosphere of the 1950s and 1960s along authentic routes. I have competed with four different cars five

times and intend to go again next February. The route is about 1,500 miles, but this is not for the fainthearted. including ice and snow-covered roads over high cols.

John Brown's Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation (Hero) is

behind the even longer London to Cape Town event next year. I am advising on the diplomatic aspect of the route and hope to be a competitor since I know so many of the beautiful places to be visited. John Brown is best known for his Corse Retro rallies in Corsica and his very popular December annual Le Jog — a four-day mystery tour from Land's End to John o' Groats, on which I usually man the Borders control point as the competitors head towards Edinburgh. The third series is Roger

Deeley's Classic rallies. These are more sociable than others and require less expertise and equipment, attracting many husband and wife teams. His annual "Claret and Classics" run in France in early July is a week-long tour of vineyards, the rallying stopping each day at lunchtime.

His September Basque Classic involves rather more motoring in the Pyrenees but is still relatively gentle and appealing to the novice, al-though a failed clutch cylin-

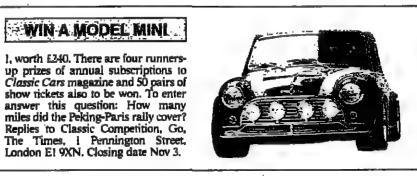
der prevented me from finishing this year. Inexpensive "Heritage Rescuethe event of a breakdown is available from Norton Insurance brokers, Birmingham, who proved very

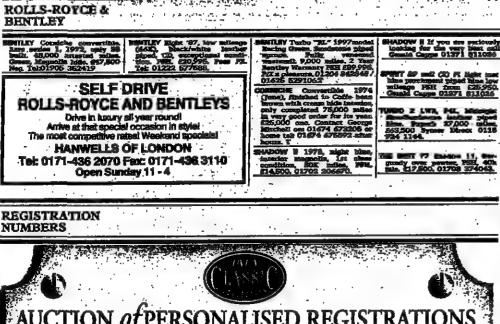
All rallies run on

Rallies go from East to West or the principle not of a race (the average North to South

speed is usually only about 30mph), but of accurate navigation with points lost per second early or late at checkpoints en route. The sport is governed by the Federation Internationale Vehicles Anciens, which issues identity documents and regulations governing modifications classic cars, required for the more serious rallies.

For further information: Classic Rally Association, Ashbrook Mews, Westbrook Street, Blewbury. Oxon OXII 9QA; Hero, The Town House. Leigh, Worcester WR6 5LA: Decicy Classics, 50 Uphill Way, Weston-





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Is your adviser truly an independent man?



Sara McConnell finds new homeowners want value for money, not a shoebox with a smart address

First-timers shun starter homes

more and spent more on their homes last month. continuing to shun the studios and one-bedroom flats that were eagerly snapped up by the previous generation in the housing boom of the 1980s.

Hopes that rising house prices would force first-time buyers back to the cheapest homes appear to have been dashed in many areas, with estate agents across the country saying they "can't give them away". As house prices begin to slacken, agents are predicting the death of the traditional studio market.

According to the latest figures from the Halifax, prices paid by first-time buyers rose by 1.4 per cent last month, dwarfing the almost static overall monthly price rise of 0.5 per cent. The average price paid by first-time buyers was £50,362, bought on a loan of £45,234. This represents 88.9 per cent of the property's value, the highest since December last year.

Cheap mortgage money and competitive fixed-rate deals are insulating them from the prospect of more interest rate rises, says Stuart Tuliah of Collins Sons and Harvey, the Birmingham estate

He says: "Interest rates are up but historically they are still reasonably low. First-time buyers have come back to the market because there is the perception that house prices are rising and will continue to rise".

But cheap mortgage deals are bringing larger, more expensive properties within the reach of many who would have been able to afford only a small starter home in the late 1980s when house prices were rising sharply.

Such "leapfrogging" has hit areas outside London and the South East hardest because house prices have not risen sharply enough to force people back to studios. Many of the homeowners who bought them are still trapped in negative equity and have been forced to let them to get on with their lives.

Julie Westby of Vale Estates in Stockport says: "One-bedroom flats



Out West on location — not in the studio

en Ash and Sarah Wilkinson had a B choice when they decided to buy their first home (Sara McConnell writes). Either they bought a studio or they one-bedroom flat in desirable Blackheath, southeast London, or moved to slightly less fashionable West Norwood and bought a apacious twobedroom flat for the same £76,000 price.

They chose West Norwood, "We looked in Blackheath but we couldn't afford much more than a studio. We wanted two bedrooms and a garden," says Mr Ash. The couple's hunt for a

had one on at £28,000 in a good ...

area of south Manchester but we

couldn't give it away at £20,000.

People don't want to live in stu-

dios". House prices in the North

West rose by just 0.9 per cent in the

and studios are a nightmare. We third quarter of this year, according

to the Halifax.

Stuart Tullah reports a similar

picture in Birmingham, where one-

bedroom cottages and starter

homes on 1980s estates are hanging

heavy. "People's incomes are grow-

mortgage has not been all plain sailing. They stopped dealing with one broker who advert-ised as a first-time buyer specialist.

He added: "We got the impression he was ramming endowments down our throats and got a bit sick of it." Another adviser gave good advice but charged high fees to prospective buyers who did not take income-protection insurance. Now they are awaiting confirmation

of two possible deals from a third adviser.

Mr Ash and Ms Wilkinson are having second thoughts about fixing their rate after

ing and they think they might as well move a bit further out and

spend a little more. Instead of a

small terrace in the inner city at

£35,000 they go for a three-bed semi

in Erdington or Acocks Green for £50,000 to £55,000." The West

rumours that the Government was keen on signing up to a European single currency. "I believe we will be heavily influenced by the single currency even if we don't go in", says Mr Ash. "If interest rates are 4 per cent in three years we'll be caught". Originally they were considering a three-year fixed rate from the Nationwide at 7.05 per cent with no penalty for leaving when the three years are up. Now they are weighing this up against a discount of) per cent over three years on Nationwide's standard rate, now 8.1 per cent.

> Midlands saw a fall of 0.3 per cent in the last quarter.

Even in London and the South East, where prices have risen most sharply, the market for studios is patchy at best. Glenn Bates of Nicholsons in Epping, Essex, re-

despised one-bedroom houses and flats on 1980s starter estates. Firstcheap homes during the recession but now some are coming back." A shortage of good properties is also leading to a larger price difference between one and two-bedroom homes, forcing some buyers back to the smallest flats.

In London, many buyers who cannot afford anything bigger than a studio in their first choice of area are choosing to move further out rather than squash themselves into a tiny space with the possibility that they may never be able to sell.

Ron Steiner of Plaza Estates, the North London agent, says: "The studio market died in the recession and it's dead now. People are petrified of being stuck, a prisoner in their own home".

K buyers who cannot afford the £150,000 it costs for even a onebedroom flat in choice areas such as St John's Wood are colonising surrounding areas like Willesden and Brondesbury, Prices in Greater London slackened slightly over the last quarter, further depressing demand at the lowest end of the market.

Hilary Wade, of Winkworths, agrees: "People are looking for space and they'll compromise on area. If they start looking at Islington they will go to Hackney or even King's Cross". Developers are building few studios as there is little demand for them, she adds.

The main demand for studios in London is from investors, many foreign, buying them to rent out, or from people living in London during the week and looking for a

The latter are the main takers for the expensive broom cupboards which periodically hit the headlines, according to Mr Steiner. He has recently sold a small studio to a senior partner in a firm of solicitors who needed to be in London a couple of days a week. Other takers could be 40 to 50 year-old divorces looking for something small and

Check the lock-in clauses carefully

buyer, you can be certain L of being on every list for the best mortgage deals. You will be in a strong bargaining position with lenders who are desperate to entice first-timers, particularly as the market shows signs of slackening.

Almost all first-time buyers are being advised to sign up to fixed rates, discounts or other special deals in spite of the possibility that early entry into a single currency could force interest rates down.

Mortgage advisers say falling five-year fixed rates are some of the cheapest ever. The Halifax last week joined its rivals in cutting its five-year fixed rates for anyone moving house including first-time buyers. Those with a 25 per cent deposit will pay 6.45 per cent and those with between 5 per cent and 25 per cent to put down will pay 6.85 per cent.

But both deals will lock you in with the Halifax for another year and a half after the fixed-rate term has ended, on pain of hefty penalties. Philip Cartwright of London & Country Mortgages says first-time buyers in particular need to check lock-in clauses on fixed rates and discounts carefully. "If you think you will move in three to five years get a three-year fixed rate. if you could move in two, a two-year fix. Don't be trapped by extended redemption penalties."

First-time buyer deals from which you are free immediately after the end of the term include Nationwide's twoyear fix of 6.55 per cent, Portman's three-year at 6.99 per cent, Principality's 6.99 per cent capped rate to 2002 and Stroud & Swindon's threeyear 1.55 per cent discount.

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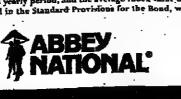
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Kung-fu kick catches shares

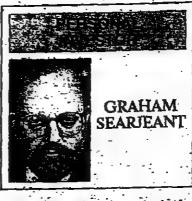
ong Kong it was that finally sent a share price tremor big I enough to reach the West: The shockwaves from a local crisis rattled crotkery and chiriney pots in London. New York, Frankfurt and Tokyo.

Only Hong Kong of the Asian markets could do this, as we learnt in August when Western investors merely had to roll up their trouser legs to with-stand a tidal wave from imploding markets in Malaysia, Thailand and other tiger nations. The dire Tokyo natice, though marky times bigger, has not been this infectious.

Links are more direct. HSBC, the old Hongkong Bank that owns Midland, is the most valuable stock in both the Hang Serig index out there and London's FISE-100. The Hang Sang takes its name from the Hong Kong Chinese bank that HSBC so profitably rescued in a panie long ago. Cable & Wireless. Standard Chartered and Incheape all depend on market conditions there. The city's financial centre is international, still stommated by West-ern groups. And although Hong Kong is an emerging market for Chinese stocks, its own corporate base is mature. Shares in the index were rated lower than in London or New York, even though the economy has grown faster.

The stock market is also notoriously volatile, as yestertlay's rebound reminded us. In October 1987, when New York's Dow Jones average plummeted nearly a third, the Hang Seng shed half its value. The Tianarunen Square massacre cost it 37 per cent. Back in 1981, when political confidence evaporated, Hong Kong shares shed 40 per cent in three months, starting a 17-month bear market that eroded 60 per cent of values.

The economy and shares did not pring back until Hong Hong fixed its dollar to America's to bolster confidence. This link has seen the place through a political minefield at modest economic cost and acquired a greater status that it



advised Malaysia not to buck the markets, are stripped for battle to

defend the parity, whatever the cost. That is fine if a show of force does the trick. The cost could be high if interest rates stay high long enough to puncture the bloated property market, on whose fortunes to much of quoted Hong Kong. depends. And Hong Kong's currency is now overvalued for trade, if only ecause rivals have devalued.

Why not avoid all this by floating the currency fast? If a measure taken to prosect the economy from past political instability becomes the source of present instability, it should go. But Hong Kong has big reserves, no debts, a sound Budget and built-in monetary discipline. Even George Soros, Malaysia's bogey man, teckoned Hong Kong should succeed where shakier economies failed and argued that a stable currency was vital to a financial centre. For better or worse. Hong Kong seems to agree. China, stung by a 10 per cent first-day discount on the flotation of China

Telecom, is prepared to back the Hong Kong markets. As in any market, discriminating bargain-hunters should look out for high-class stocks innocently caught up in the mess. After the switchback, the Hang Seng is down a

third from its August peak. Having triggered latent doubts. Hong now deserves. Hong Kong leaders, who Kong's affairs now scarcely matter for

Western stock markets. Only the leitmohiv of dollar strength, along with starting's miffier buoyancy, features in the general rethink. Frankfurt was the other main candidate to trigger a general slide. Share prices had already lost momentum there and interest rates are on the way up to converge with the likely rate on a euro that will start softer than the mark, and to sustain the mark/euro in the face of the dollar. America too, expects some modest rise in short-term interest rates for domestic reasons, though US monetary policy is now so sensitive that rates are less likely to rise if the New York stock market dramatically loses its exuberance.

Overvaluation is the key worry in New York and in London, as discussed here last week. Prices have been chased Too far this year. That was why the otherwise meaningless tenth anniversary of the 1987 crash made investors so nervous when economies are sound.

hare prices have broken modestly, upsetting the optimistic upward momentum. So why should investors buy markets that already looked too highly rated after six years plus of economic upswing? Ratings of 26 times earnings in New York and 20 times in London owe something to the secular fall in inflation and long-term interest rates. But they presume that lots of companies can keep annual earnings growth near 10 per cent in this climate. The case is unproven. The benefit of the doubt may now be withdrawn.

In contrast to Hong Kong, one good sign is that big investors are switching into bonds rather than cash, even though UK money rates are attractive. This implies that they are looking for a sub-1987 correction in share prices, not a downturn in the investment cycle. If London shares fell as much as 8 per cent and Wall Street about twice as much, that might be the end of it, leaving decent profits on shares in 1997. If that

Checks in the post deliver extra

avestors hunting the best home for their money in a postal accounts in search of

About 46 banks and building societies now offer such acnts, many of them with gross rates two percentage points more than rates baid on prenct-based accounts. This is

such cheaper to administer. Bristol & West, the current narket leader according to Minesfacts, the stoney infornation service, offers a rate of 7.65 per cent on a deposit of £16,000 for its 30 day account. This is there there two points Gloucester launched the sercoming increasingly popular with busy professionals who do not have time to visit a branch as well as the house-bound and those who cannot get to their bank because they live out of town.

Postal account deposits usu-ally range from £5,000 to £10,000. But some banks and Royal Bank of Scotland now accept deposits of £500.

J Sainsbury and Tesco are making aggressive inroads into the savings market by offering high rates of interest on accounts with balances of offer 6.5 per cent on an

years after Cheltenham & tions on the amount that customers are allowed to Most societies offer 24-bour

turnround on transactions

and a growing number of banks and building societies are now offering postal account holders a telephone service as well. These include Bradford & Bingley, Bank of Scotland. Cheltenham & Gloucester, Legal & General and Scottish Widows.

For those who can the up their money for longer, there are a range of 30-day, 60-day and 90-day notice accounts. The longer the netice the bigner the rate of interest. Early withdrawals incur penfor impulse buyers. Even holders of instant access ac-

of Chamberlain de Broe, the financial adviser, said: "Postal accounts are for the older. more organised person; for the serious investor who plans ahead and is maybe saving up

for a single purchase."

For desposits of £1,000, Moneyfacts recommends the First National 90-day account which offers a rate of 7.1 per cent. The Scottish Widows bank has a 60-day account which offers 6.8 per cent on £1,000.

For balances of £10,000. Bristol & West is offering 7.65 per cent on its 30-day account. Alliance & Leicester and First National offer 7.5 per cent on instant-access accounts for the

Susan Emmett

Have you missed the self-assessment deadline?

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The inland Revenue's key deadline of 30th September has now passed. This means if you're required to file a Tax Return under the new self-assessment regulations, you must calculate your own tax liability. For most people this is a daunting prospect, but don't panic - TaxCalc 1996-97 will do the hard work for you!

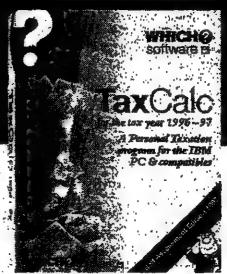
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Perhaps a little too cosy for comfort

In principle, best-buy panels from which independent financial advisers pick carefully vetted products for their customers are a very good idea. The IFA maintains a good relationship with the top providers in the industry. and the customer can benefit from the hours of research into products that the financial adviser has put in on his behalf.

There is, however, the small matter of commission. A report from the Personal Investment Authority, the investors' watchdog. this week suggests that some product providers are effectively buying their way on to such panels by offering higher commission rates than rivals.

It also suggests that best-buy panels are often too small to prov-ide a full range of options for customers. Of course, not all IFAs allow their judgment to be clouded by



COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY Personal Finance Deputy Editor .

began their careers in large life companies and will be steeped in the sales culture. They may find it difficult to make the switch from

agent to adviser. Most IFA firms are small businesses; many of them employ fewer than 50 people and some struggle from time to time with cashflow problems. The temptation to sell a product with high initial commission rather than opt for something better, but cheaper, for the custom-

er, must be great when the bills are

building up.
At stake is the trust between adviser and customer. The very reason people visit IFAs is that they want to believe they are dealing with an adviser who will recommend a product that is tailor-made for their requirements.

Attempts to standardise commis-sion have failed once already, so this is an unlikely solution. Unit trust companies recognise the problem but are reluctant to rock the

boat. It is a matter that NewRo, the new regulator, must address with some urgency when it is launched next week.

One for the boys

VIRGIN DIRECT'S new current account mortgage, One, may have an appeal for sophisticated inves-tors who venture into the choppy waters of borrowing to invest in the hope of earning a higher return than the debt's interest rate.

During the flotation of Norwich Union thousands of these investors took out bank and credit card loans to fund applications for extra shares. Virgin One's 8.2 per cent interest rate is lower than many

personal or credit card rates. This may make it a hit for reasons other than those put forward by its management just

Skipton case ends in tiers

has been rapped over the knuckles by the Advertising Standards Au-thority for a leaflet promot-ing its High Street Savings

The ASA upheld a complaint that claims about new higher rates" that appeared in the leaflet were misleading because not all interest rates had increased and one had, in fact, gone

In its defence, the Skipton said that the leaflet had not claimed "that all rates were higher, but that the new investment bands now offered higher rates for new investors". The society also said that it had not received any complaints directly from

Changes to the instant access account meant that instead of offering three levels of interest, six levels were now available. A new investor who had more than £5,000 to invest would beneClare Stewart reports on a leaflet promoting higher interest rates that was ruled to have misled savers

available, said the Skipton. However, the ASA was unconvinced by the Skipton's argument and has asked it to withdraw the leaflet.

Also left confused by the changes to the instant access account and the lower rate offered was Vicky Shaw, a Skipton customer from Langholm Dumfriesshire:

Mrs Shaw opened her High Street account in April with an investment of £2,000: The interest rate was 4 percent gross and Mrs Shaw was told that if the balance fell below £2,000 the account would be closed automatically as part of the building society's anti-carpetbagging

Last week Mrs Shaw

interest on the account, given the increases in base rates between April and October.

She was told that the interest rate had in fact gone down and that her money was now earning 3.2 per cent gross because the account had been "retiered". To earn more than 4 per cent she would have to increase the balance in the account.

The rate offered is, says Robert Shaw, "ridiculous in this climate". The Shaws have topped up the account to move into the next interest tier, and for the time being they are retaining the acbranch is convenient.

However, the Shaws remain unimpressed by the Skipton offer. "It is poor, phoned her local branch to particularly when they keep check the current rate of spouting about the advantages of mutuality," said Mr

The High Street account currently offers rates of 3 per cent for the minimum investment of £2,000, rising to 6.25 per cent on deposits of £50,000 and above.

John Dawson, secretary and general manager of the Skipton Building Society. said that the reduction in rate for the lowest tier was part of the society's move to keep out carpetbaggers.

Mr Dawson said: "We would love not to have this

£15,000

of new accounts being opened has so disrupted the service we can offer.
"We have tried

minimise the impact by re-stricting the tier affected. We are keeping rates under review because we appreciate there are existing customers affected by it."
Together with the condi-

tion of maintaining a mini-mum balance of £2,000, Skipton's further measure against opportunist investors has been to stipulate that new investors putting in less than £5,000 initially have to £25 to the NSPCC. Donations to the children's the £300,000 mark.



Skipton talks of higher rates but Vicky Shaw and husband Robert lost out under "retiering"

he FTSE 100 index has had a rough

Unlike actively managed investments; tracker funds do not switch in and out of stocks, but remain weighted in line with the particular index. Rebalancing of the portfohio is prompted only by very large price movements. Most FTSE 100 tracker funds follow all of the 100 companies and so

shadow the sort of share price movements seen this week. The advice to those who already have an index tracker is to sit tight and take a five-year view, according to Tony
Wood, marketing director of Virgin Direct,
which offers a UK Equity Index Tracker
Fund investing in all the FTSE All Share
companies. He said: "Successful investors sit through short-term blips.".

Rick Lacaille, head of quantitative investments at Gartmore, which runs its own All · Share index tracker plus a FTSE 100 tracker for NatWest, believes initial volatility accompanied the introduction of order-driven trading this week, but the system should

"Tracker funds are a sensible way of investing," said Ian Milward from Chase de Vere, independent financial advisers, "but the UK market has had a good run, and investors may want to diversify into other are UK-based."

Sit tight or change track

ride this week and investors' nerves have been severely tested. Uncertainty over the UK's intentions towards European monetary union, the introduction of the new order driven trading system for share dealing, and uncertainty in world markets saw UK share prices extremely volatile. The FTSE 100 opened this week at 5,271.1 and

Investors who hold index-tracking funds have watched as some of the biggest names in blue-chip stocks fell heavily on Thursday . as the collapse in the Hong Kong market spread across the rest of the world. Particularly hard hit have been groups with a large exposure to the Far East including HSBC, which slid 9 per cent on Thursday.

spon "settle down".

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The figures in the above graph are based on a purchase price of £100,000 on 1 April 1987.

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A future of never having had it so bad

The proclamation from Harold Macmillan in the 1950s that we had "never had it so good" was a chilling future prediction. Those who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s benefited from a generous welfare system and favourable tax treatment of savings. Today's young must start saving very early for the same benefits. CAROLINE MERRELL looks at a dark future for them.

tial state support over their working life. They have enjoyed a free National Health Service, subsidised higher education and generous basic and State earnings related pensions (Serps).

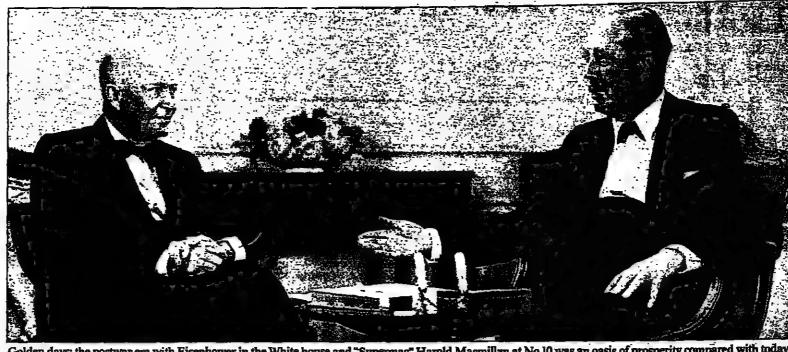
Today, the Government has followed governments over the last 20 years, cutting tax relief and withdrawing welfare. Each name change of a particular aspect of the state benefit system has heralded a cut in the value of the benefit itself, with the result that the younger generation is now being asked to pay for more and more of what was previously provided for centrally.

And, according to experts, they are having to do this from income reduced by greater and greater amounts of tax. For the very young, the

eople coming up to retirement today have be encouraged in to home ownership with big tax breaks. Marriage is not as taxefficient as it was for their parents and grandparents, they will have to insure privately against redundancy and sickness and they will have to save a large part of their income to pay for their retirement

The biggest expense for the younger generation will be the cost of providing for their own retirement. By far the biggest cuts in the government safety net have been applied to the basic and the state pension.

Reductions in state pensions began at the beginning of the last decade. The Conservative Government decided to link rises in state pensions and other social security payments to inflation rather than earnings. Because earnings rise at around 2 per cent a year more than inflation this represents a



Golden days: the postwar era with Eisenhower in the White house and "Supermac" Harold Macmillan at No 10 was an oasis of prosperity compared with today

huge cut in the long term. In 1980 the basic pension was worth 25 per cent of national average earnings. If the break with the earnings had not been carried out, the pension would today be worth nearly £100 a

week; instead it is worth just £62. By 2030, when today's 25year-olds come up for retirement, the basic pension will be worth just 8 per cent of earnings. At today's prices this

Serps has also been profoundly changed. The first hit on the scheme came in 1988, when the Government changed the way in which it was calculated. A man who started work in 1986 with a salary of £15,000, today will suffer a fall of £5,000 in Serps because of changes, assuming average pay rises. Further cuts brought in this year will cut a further £10,000 out of the projected pension in 2033.

As well as cuts to the state pension, in the last Budget the incoming Government decided that the favourable tax treatment enjoyed by pension

concession that allows pension schemes to claim back advanced corporation tax (ACT) paid on dividends was scrapped, cutting the potential returns by around 0.5 per cent

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Abolition of dividend tax credit

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paid in, that is all those with personal pensions and all those with money-purchase occupational schemes, will have to find substantial extra contributions to produce the same pension they would have done before change.

According to Maurice Fits-

patrick, an accountant with

Chantrey Vellacott, the ACT change will cost around £200 a year. This means that those who are 50 will have pay £2,000 extra in contributions, while those that are 25 will have to pay £6,000 extra in Favourable tax treatment

for homeowners has also been chiselled away, while the safety net that protects homeowners that become unemployed or ill has been severely restricted. The attack on mortgage interest tax relief began at the beginning of the 1980s.

Since then the prices of houses have more than doubled. Using today's average mortgage rate of 8.5 per cent...tax relief for higher rats taxpayers in 1991 would have een worth a maximum of £1,000. The relief for basic rate tax payers would be worth around 1625. The tax relief

Protection from the Department of Social Security for homeowners who lose their jobs has also been cut. First, restrictions on the amount of mortgage that was protected were introduced. More recently the social security safety net was cut again, so now very few people actually qualify to have their mortgages paid if they become unemployed

Mortgage lenders are considering making mortgage protection policies compulsory these typically will add around 125 a month to the cost of the mortgage.

arriage has also suf-fered at the hands of the Inland Revenue. The Married Couple's Allowance (MCA) would have been worth £732 for higher rate taxpayers in 1993; marriage for basic rate taxpayers would have been worth £457. Now for all taxpayers it is worth only £275.

Savings products have also come under Revenue scrutiny. Those who took out an endow ment policy before 1984 would get tax relief on the premiu typically this would be worth round E75 a year, 😲

All these cuts means someone earning the average wage today of £18,500 will now have to save hundreds of pounds more year for pensions and extra insurances. Some pensions experts believe that total contributions of 10 per cent of wages will be needed to pro-vide a reasonable retirement fund. The investments and savings plans that are avail-able for saving are becoming less and less tax efficient. The Individual Savings Account (ISA) looks as though it will offer less tax breaks than Personal Equity Plans (Peps) and Tax Exempt Special Sav-

our mortgage payments until 2002."

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What may seem like bad news could be a buying opportunity, says Gavin Lumsden

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A question of trust and discounts

ix of the best-known investment trust managers are gearing up to launch a campaign to win back public interest in their funds.

Next week Baillie Gifford, Gartmore, Henderson Investors, Kleinwort Benson, Mercury Asset nounce a plan to target investors through malishots, a significant move in a sector that has traditionally relied on word of mouth between well-heeled investors. Some believe it could signal the development of a joint marketing board for investment trusts.

Certainly, investment trusts need to boost their popularity. Weak share prices in the sector have provoked investors to withdraw £2.2 billion from investment trusts in the past 12 months, causing a victous spiral that has pushed prices and demand down further. In this context, "what investment?" is

suddenly a very good question.

What exactly is an investment trust? An investment company with a share quoted on the Stock Ex-

INVESTMENT BEGINNERS

change. An investment trust invests in the stocks and shares issued by other companies. By buying the investment trust share you are buying a piece of all the assets that it holds in much the same way as when you buy units in a unit trust. Investment trusts have three advan-

tages over unit trusts, however. Unlike unit trusts - which can issue more units as investors demand them investment trusts have a limited number of shares. This limit creates a demand for a

trust when times are good and protects the trust from having to sell its best assets to redeem investors who want out when markets are poor.

This close-ended characterisic makes them ideal vehicles for long-

ment trusts can borrow to invest a tactic that is known as gearing, put you off entirely. Their rise and fall Although this increases the level of is cyclical, dictated by the law of supply risk, over the long term it enhances. and demand, indeed, discounts can their performance. Thirdly, they are coffer a good buying opportunity when cheaper than unit trusts. Their average whey start so marrow. which compares with 1.2 per cent to 1.5 per cent for unit trusts.

So why have they become so unpopular? Investment trust shares have the

unfortunate habit of falling to a discount. When this happens they are worth less than the underlying assets which the trust holds. Discounts have nearly trebled to 11 per cent since 1994. although this is nowhere near the alltime low of 30 per cent in the 1970s. Widening discounts always make shareholders unhappy and there has been a sharp increase in takeovers of underperforming trusts this year.

Should I parmy investment trust? Should I put my savings into an A Discounts are a ract or me was investment trusts and should not

What is being done to reduce Q discounts?

HSBC James Capel urges investment trust managers to increase their appeal to private investors by launching more Peps, savings schemes, pensions and mortgage repayment products based on their

investment trust boards should be made more independent and the fund management contracts shortened to one year to increase investors' confidence that their interests are being looked after. Justin Harris, an HSBC analyst, said: "People should not give up on investment trusts. The doom and gloom over the sector is a cyclical reaction when people perceive there to be too many bad funds."

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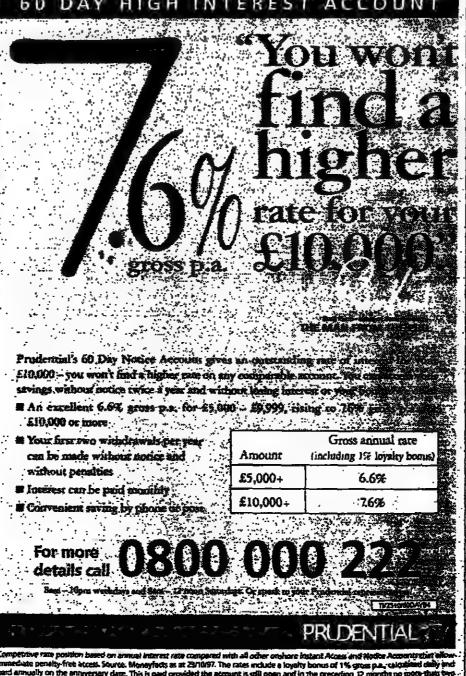
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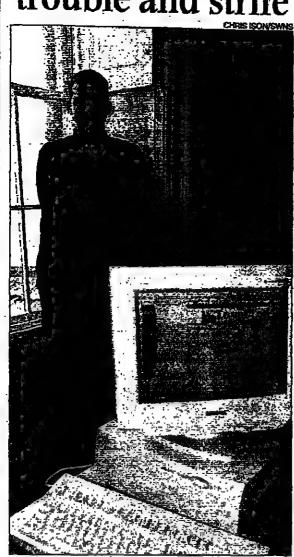
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Information or advice will only be provided on Engle Star products. Insuring your health has particular merits and difficulties for the self-employed, says John Givens

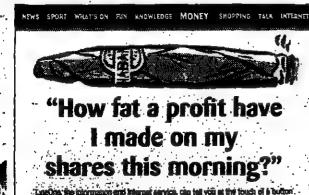
Taking cover for trouble and strife



administrator Dee Town in June - he also splashed out on critical illness insurance and accident protection cover to help to pay the bills if accident or serious illness prevented him from working (Jon Givens writes).

The 36-year-old businessman, a partner in Creative Natives, a Bristol design house, decided in the summer that the time had come to make sure he had some protection after being self-employed for more than three years. He looked carefully at the schemes available before opting for a Black Horse Life Living Cover Plan, a critical illness policy which pays out a lump sum if he contracts one of the serious illnesses specified. He also took out accident protection cover that also pays out a lump sum if he suffers one of the accidents specified, such as the loss of an eye or arm.

In spite of already making some provision to provide an income if he is too Ill to work, Clive is now looking to complete the cover by taking out permanent.



Soloists need to play it safe

Being self-employed of-fers many attractions, but the prospect of being unable to work and earn

an income is not one of them. If you are one of the millions employed by a company offering a decent sick pay scheme, the chances are that you have little to worry about unless struck down by illness or accident for more than a year. after which your sickness

benefits might come to an end. However, when you work for yourself, the fear of being unable to ply your trade will be at the back of your mind. If the worst happens and you

or injury, the till stops ringing. However, Britain's 3.5 million self-employed workers do have another option — insurance cover. Insuring your income by taking out a permanent health insurance (PHI) policy is easier than you may think, although being self-employed can cause complications.

According to Allied Dunbar, 60 per cent of PHI policies issued to individuals are held by self-émployed people.

PHI insures part of your normal income, usually up to 60 per cent of gross monthly earnings, if you cannot carry on your normal occupation because of liness, accident or injury.

The monthly cost of policies pends on the deferred period, which sets out how long the policyholder needs to be unable to work before the monthly benefit begins. Com-

longer the deferred period. .

of factors, such as age, occupa-tion, state of health, family

history and whether the bene-fits are fixed or go up with infla-tion during the policy's life. The problem that the self-

employed often have with PHI

is proving what their earnings were just before making a claim. This is particularly so

for those who have only just

To make sure that policy-

holders do not insure them-selves for more than their act-

ual earnings — and would therefore be better off claiming

rather than working - insur-ers check very closely a claim-

ant's position before paying

Self-employed people have to

prove recent net relevant earn-

ings — that is profits from the

business after all legitimate

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probably spend the first few months earning very little

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while trying to develop busi-ness, so, if a claim came during this period, the under-writer of a PHI policy might panies offering PHI typically give quotes based on one, three, six and 12 months, with the premium being less the argue that the benefits agreed Premiums also differ considto should be calculated as a erably from company to compercentage of actual earnings rather than of the amount a pany and depend on a number

> after becoming established. In this situation, some insurers will accept your most recent employed income as a benchmark if you have recently left a company to go it alone, al-though, as with many insurance claims, you can never be sure what the underwriter's re-

self-employed worker expects

action will be until you claim. To be on the safe side, you should ask PHI providers to

self-employed people making claims before you buy a policy and ask for confirmation of

what they tell you in writing. PHI can be as cheap or as expensive as you want it to be. you become incapacitated you want the benefits to begin.

If you have savings set aside and you know you can contin-ue to pay the mortgage and household bills while you are ill and not earning an income. you should defer benefits for as long as you can afford to, because the PHI premiums fall dramatically.

On the other hand, if every penny you had has been pumped into your new business and you will need income as quickly as possible if forced to stop working, you will need a policy with the minimum deferred period of one month. Deferring benefits for as

long as possible makes PHI affordable for most people, although short deferred peri-

a 35-year-old non-smoking man wanting indexed-linked benefits of £25,000 a year, based on normal net relevant earnings of £50,000 a year, would have to pay £62.23 a month for a policy with a 12-

month deferred period. However, if he needs a policy paying out after three months' incapacity, the monthly premium leaps to £178.23 - more than £2,100 a year.

he same cover fixed for the policy's life, rather than index-linked, is cheaper, at £44.73 for a 12month deferral of benefits and £131.23 for three-month deferral, although the long-term sick risk seeing their income eroded over time by inflation.

Although the costs can seem prohibitive, PHI is rapidly becoming an insurance that more and more people - particularly the self-employed -

ods can mean the monthly premiums look frightening.
According to Allied Dunbar,

According to Allied Dunbar,

Peter Kelly, Allied Dunbar's protection marketing director, says that PHI providers are becoming more experienced at dealing with the self-employed and allaying fears of claims being rejected or downgraded. He said: "If someone is

newly self-employed and likely to earn very little in the early days, we will basically come to some agreement about the earnings expectations of the insured and refer back to a recent salary for the purposes of a claim if necessary. We always look at a claim and try to find reasons to pay it rather than reasons not to, and most reputable insurers will attempt to honour 100 per cent of claims."

Allied Dunbar research shows that customers rank the security of a company and its record of paying legitimate claims as the key measures of an insurer, with the cost of policies down in seventh place.

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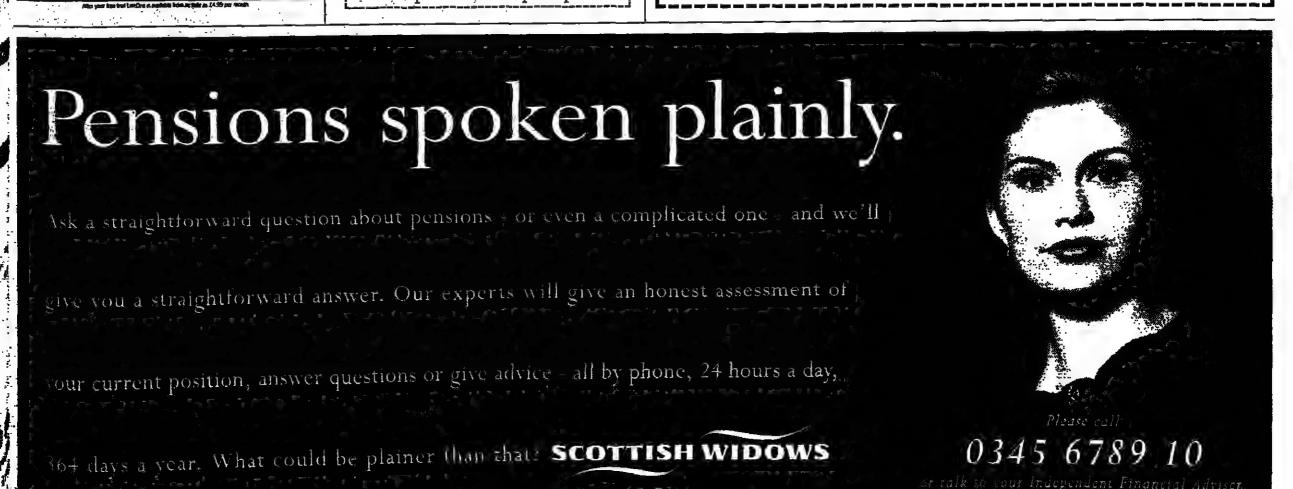
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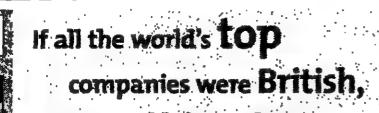
calth insurance (PHI), which will pay up to 60 per cent of s normal monthly income while he is unable to carry it his business because of accident, injury or illness. He said that marriage made him realise more than er the importance of making sure he could pay the bills he was incapacitated and unable to work. "Having e responsibility of a family has made me realise that I could take out a policy to protect my income if sything prevents me from working. I like playing otball and it is always at the back of my mind that I	cope with any changes in your lifestyle – without making you pay a penalty. That is why you should consider an Equitable personal pension plan. We don't pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business, and our expenses are kept envisbly low. So, you don't have to commit yourself to paying identical contributions each year; they can be increased or reduced to suit you – without penalty.
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Gavin Lumsden on a dispute over permanent health cover



Dr Nick Howarth, with his dog Jake, at home reading in a special chair developed to ease the symptoms of back pain sufferers like himself.

group of doctors and dentists have launched a campaign against the Medical Sickness Society, a permanent health insurer they claim is terminating policies of long-term claimants through the misuse of secretly filmed video evidence.

They allege that MSS is asking claimants to describe their own symp-

toms rather than relying on the independent evidence of medical experts. They say it has been known then to pay private detectives to film claimants doing things that are supposedly contradictory to the symptoms they have described. One doctor claims he was followed by private detectives in a car with blacked-out windows and was posted a heavy package by the company that wanted to see if he could pick it up, a claim vigorously denied by MSS.

The doctors and dentists complain that the policies are terminated on the examines them directly but simply relies on the video evidence. In spite of numerous requests, they say the company refuses to disclose the video evidence. MSS, a subsidiary of Wesleyan Assurance, which has seen the costs of claims rocket in recent years, says that

it is merely defending itself against potential fraud and denies it is systematically targeting long-term cases.

However, Dr Nick Howarth, a doctor in Nuneaton. Warwickshire, is taking MSS to an independent arbitrator after the insurer stopped its

payments to him after just four months. Dr Howarth, 47, who took out his PHI policy with MSS in 1978, had to stop work in January 1996 when he had spondylosis diagnosed. This condition

Doctors seek cure for insurance ills

means he develops a painful neck and loses fine control of his fingers if he stands upright for long periods. He is currently taking morphine for pain relief. He started claiming in April, but September 1996 he says he was told by MSS that it had obtained video idence of him lifting heavy weights.

It then demanded he repay the money.

Dr Howarth said: "They say they have video evidence of my mobility.

I've never denied that I am mobile. The point is I can't stand still for too long and I am taking strong painkillers, and I can't work as a GP when I am on them. I told them I was playing golf for exercise to stop my muscles wasting.

A 59-year-old dentist in Leeds, who did not want to be named, said the MSS had contributed to the break-up of his marriage. He developed fibro-myalgia and arthiritis, which leaves his hands, particularly his thumbs, extremley painful. This prevents him from holding instruments such as drills, which are essential for his job. After 30 years of paying premiums on

September 1994. Fourteen months later MSS told him it had evidence of him doing DIY work. In spite of the reportfrom an eminent expert in rheamatology at the University of Leeds confirming his condition, MSS stopped his

hen pressed, the company revealed it had actually seen him taking rubbish bags to a tip. In spite of repeated attempts to tell the company that, again, the lack of control in his fingers was the issue, not the inability to lift weights, preventing him from returning to work, MSS has refused to resume his payments. In addition, it has told other insurers with whom the man took out top-up policies. One, Friends Provident, has since

terminated its policy.

His situation made him difficult to live with. "Managing on a state pension when you should be on £30,000 doesn't do inuch for your outlook on life. It leaves you feeling

totally stressed. If there are any stresses in your marriage it just

Another dentist in Northern Ireland who suffers back pain after a spinal injury, complains that MSS asked for five orthopaedic reports in ten months. He then replied to a letter from the company saying there was no change in his condition. The company accused him of exaggerating his claim, even though he says he never saw any of the reports, and backed this up with video evidence it claimed it had of him doing physical exercise.

Les Dilley, the MSS claims manager at the centre of all these cases, denied the company was doing anything wrong. "If a cisimant describes what they can do in detail and if we then obtain consistent direct observation that contradicts what they have said,

what do you expect me to do?"

Mr Dilley said secret filming, or "direct observation" as he termed it, was used in only a small number of the 2000 claims dealt with each year.

The company, he said, usually acted on comments from doctors and occasional anonymous tip-offs but only terminated a policy if there was a evere inconsistency with a previous medical report. He insisted that the footage was never edited and was taken over a long period of time. It was not revealed to claimants because it could result in a time-wasting arguments about what individuals did or . did not do on specific days. If claimants really wanted to see the evidence they could take the company to court, he said.

Dr Howarth may be contacted by email on 101740.1165@ compuserve.com. ndex-Truckin

Virgin One puts flexible loans in spotlight

he launch of Virgin One, a new mortgage and current account. by Richard Branson's Virgin Direct, has highlighted the growth in the number of new "flexible mortgages" which lenders are offering.

These products are designed to free homeowners from the rigid payment schedules which lenders normally impose. They are intended to appeal to people who can pay off sections of their mortgage from time to time with lump sums: who have a good salary but need to borrow heavily on occasions; or who are selfemployed and whose cash-

This latter type of customer would find the option to take mortgage payment holidays particularly useful during

Lenders are moving to meet demand

for loans for customers with 90s

lifestyles, says Marianne Curphey

of Scotland and Mortgage Trust already offers mortgages where payments can be varied. Virgin One, a joint venture between Virgin Direct and the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), is different because it requires customers to pay their salary into the account as well. Moneyfacts, the money in-

formation service, points out that the rates of interest Virgin One is charging are "higher than most flexible mortgages, many of which are also offer-

ing very attractive incentives". Vicki Burn, Moneyfacts edi-tor, said: "Sainsbury's Bank's Options Mortgage rate can be as low as 7.45 per cent for a loan up to 75 per cent of value and they also give £400 towards legal costs. Stroud & Swindon Building Society's Flexible Mortgage has a stan-dard variable rate of 8.30 per cent and offers a cash rebate of up to 3 per cent, plus free valuation and free legal costs. Even RBS, Virgin's partner, charges only 7.7 per cent on its Flexible Choice and gives free

chequebook facility." Simon Tyler, managing di-rector of Chase De Vere Mortgage Management, says the ideal flexible mortgage customer would be in their forties with substantial equity in their home and with enough discipline to borrow.

without getting into trouble. He said: This is not a mortgage for first-time buyers who can get a cheap discount or fixed rate and who need to know their outgoings will stay the same for the first few years. Flexible mortgages work on a variable rate so customers must recognise they could be hit by higher rates. They are only a good idea when rates are historical-

"It is also not worth switching mortgages if you have to pay redemption penalties." Chase De Vere's own product. the Adaptable Lifestyle Moregage which is backed by Mortgage Trust, allows pay-ment holidays and early repayment and currently has an interest rate of 2 21 terest rate of 8.31 per cent. Mortgage Trust also has a



Richard Branson is turning the loans market upside down

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Seeking a voice for 'Sids' share interests



Angela Knight wants to see a Special Investor Forum to protect the interests of an army of small-scale traders

ngela Knight, former Conserva-tive minister and head of the Association of Private Client Instment Managers and Stockbrokers, is calling for the formation of a Private Investor Forum to protect the interests of the 18 million Sids in this country.

As development on the Stock Exchange gathers speed, there are growing con-cerns that the voice of private investors is not being heard. Reforms, such as the introduction of the electronic order book. this week, and the advent this year of Crest, the computer-driven settlement tern, have been made to suit the needs of international institutions, she believes.

Private investors get thought of as an add-on, not from malice aforethought, but because all the thinking is done on ebalf of the international institutional wayers. However, this is not acceptable secause three quarters of the volume of business on the Stock Exchange comes from private investors, and 20 per cent of the value of that business. That's a lot of

business and a lot of good busine To counter this influence Ms Knight is aiming to bring together the Bank of England, financial services regulators the Stock Exchange and investment companies to consider changes before they are made. On its agenda would be obvious pitfalls such as how the stock market will cope with the introduction of

Developments on the

Stock Exchange raise

real concerns about

small investor needs,

says Gavin Lumsden

the single European currency, and the end of the century when many computer systems are due to reset their internal clocks to zero unless something is done. Other issues will be the extension of the

order book, improvements in settlement time and including gilts in Crest.

The Stock Exchange has already demonstrated the need for such a body. Days after its historic launch of the order book it announced it was establishing a special sub-committee to look at the ssues for retail investors. This committee is prepared to change the rules governing how private investors interact with the

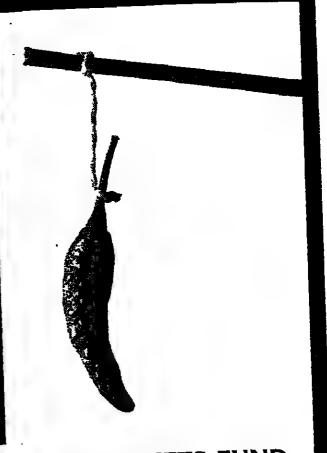
order book if problems emerge. Why should there be problems in theory, the order book, officially known as Sets, the Stock Exchange Electronic Trading Service, should be good news for investors, large and small. Since

Monday investors have no longer had to go to middlemen, known as market makers, who charged a fee for quoting a buy or sell price for shares in their hands. Instead buyers and sellers can now enter their orders directly into the order book, and already the gap between the buy and sell price on many shares has reduced.

However, most private investors are barred from the order book because it will accept only trades above £4,000. Their "non-standard" deals continue to go through market-makers, now known as retail service providers. The good news is that the RSPs are committed to matching the spreads on the order book. The bad news is that they may start to charge extra handling fees to compensate for the loss of fee income from their institutional clients. This fear has become more acute since there are only four RSPs. One, BZW's Trade, is up for sale and another, Aidken Campbell, is a small player. This leaves Merrill Lynch and Kleinener Person who availed devotes a Kleinwort Benson, who could develop a hucrative duopoly, although they assured Ms Knight that they have no such plans.

There are other pressures driving up the cast: for: private investors. Two companies which provide links to Crest, BT Syntegra and Swift, are increasing their charges. Most stockbrokers have not passed these on to their clients but give warning that this could change.

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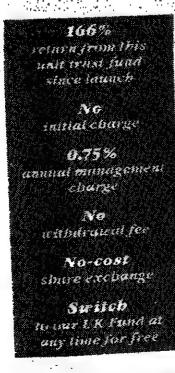
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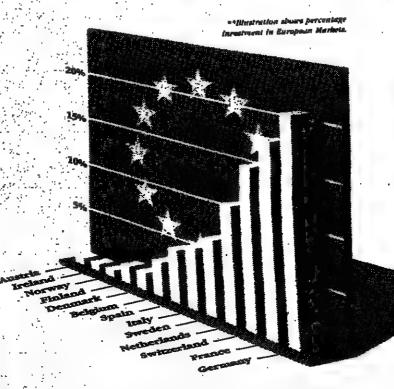
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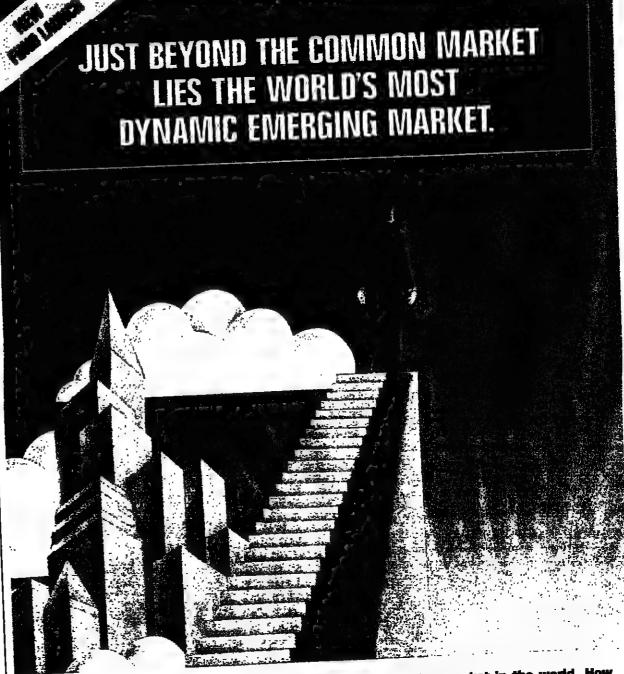
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Eastern Europe is fast becoming the most dynamic emerging market in the world. How do we know? Because our parent company Flemings has been there since the fall of Communism. We already manage over £650 million in Eastern Europe. And we've delivered 116% growth in the last three years. The same team will be running the Save & Prosper New Europe Fund. Launch discounts of up to 2% are available. Call now for an information pack.



NEW



The charitable work of Diana, Princess of Wales has spawned a host of spontaneous commemorative products

FIGURE ENGINEE

If you have regular bills to pay and a family to support it's understandable if you've put the issue of life insurance to the back of your mind. After all, insurance can be costly, and you need money to hand.

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the people you care for could get on with

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Diana gifts may not all help the needy

Buy this little teddy bear and 50p will go to Save the Bears Appeal. Spend £100 on this credit card and 25p will be given to the International Fund for the Preservation of Goldfish. A percentage of profits from these Christmas cards will go towards saving pine forests.

Marketing and charity make useful allies, and messages such as the above are a familiar tag to the promotion of diverse products and services, from lavatory

Affinity cards where credit card spend-. ing is linked to a donation to a charity are a particularly common example, with a proliferation of worthy causes benefiting to the tune of thousands and occasionally millions of pounds.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has given rise to a wide range of commemorative products being offered. While some manufacturers such as Wedgwood have held back, deeming it inapproprime to offer any such products, there are many others selling gifts which also promise a sales-linked donation to one of the Princess's favourite charities or her Memorial Fund.

may be, the number of these promotions es the question of how precisely donations are monitored. How, for examole, does the ourchaser of a commemorarive set of coins or a mug know that the manufacturer is giving a percentage of profits to the charity, and not simply capitalising on public interest to boost

The difficulty in this instance is complicated by the strength of response to the death of Diana. "A lot of people com-menced production and fundraising in such a spontaneous way," said Kate Day, spokeswoman for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Technically, she says, a lot of companies may well be

The Royal Mail says it is also keeping a watchful eye on some of the commemorative stamps that have been issued and offered for sale as collectors items in the UK. some of which claim to have been recognised by the Royal Mail. No official British stamps have been issued, and none will be, the spokesman says, until such permission may be granted by Earl Spencer.

The trustees of the memorial fund are

Clare Stewart examines ways of finding out

whether commemorative products will benefit

the causes that were backed by the Princess

from companies wanting to sell products. donation to the fund, that makes it a

Miss Day say Because of the rush of commemorative items, she added, not all companies now approval. "We are monitoring products we have not heard of," she says, as well as following up examples of product promotions making extravagant claims which have been brought to the fund's attention by the public.

uires the agreement of the trustees,"

Where companies are approved by the memorial fund, the terms of the arrangement are set out in a contractual agreement. The fund is also working on an official logo that can be used on

products to denote approval In addition, products sold on this basis should clearly specify the nature of the donation and include the fund's charity number (06 1238). This is in line with codes of practice backed by groups such as the Advertising Standards Authority and the Direct Marketing Association.

Anyone planning to spend money on a product or service that is linked to any charitable donation should check the small print carefully so that they know exactly where their money is going The level of contribution should be

clearly spelt out, together with the name of the charity or charities to benefit and says the ASA, "should not exaggerate the benefits to the charity or cause derived from purchase of the promoted product". The code of practice also says consumers re entitled to ask companies to disclose how much money has been given to a part-

icular cause through such a promotion. If a product promotion of this sort is onfusingly or misleadingly worded, it can Charity Commission or the specific charity named in the promotion.

Leading national charities such as the National Trust unsurprisingly keep a firm grip on product promotion. Under the Charities Act, says Margaret Hopper. corporate development manager of the National Trust, "all commercial deals have to have a contract".- .

Earlier this year, for example, Green Flag launched a vehicle rescue service offer for trust members, promising to give the trust 20 per cent of the sales price of

either of the two policies being offered.

This is clearly stated on all publicity and the company has to supply state ments. We also have the right to aud their books," says Mrs Hopper. The trust also asks for a minimum guaranteed donation from companies in the first year, 'so that the trust does not lose out by

lending its name." One of the most valuable such relation ships for the trust has been the Affinity card issued by Midland Bank which over the past eight years has generated about

ffinity cards have long been marketed as a painless way of supporting a good cause. An initial royalty is paid to the charity when the card is first issued, and then a proportion of the spend — usually 25p per £100 — donated by the issuing bank to the relevent cause.

The largest issuer in the UK is MBNA with more than 500 associated groups and charities, including the World Wide Fund Business Trust Among high street banks, for example, the Bank of Scotland has 85 affinity cards, with beneficiaries includ-ing the RSPCA, NSPCC and the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

Contractual agreements between a bank and charity mean that cardholders must be notified if the arrangement changes or lapses. Cardholders can also find out by how much a particular charity always well publicised except perhaps by

Advertising Standards Authority, 0171-580 5555; The Charity Commission, 014-210 4477; The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund (donations) 0990 664422.

is currently paying 6.2 per cent on balances of £1 and above. Interest is half-yearly. Market Harborough Build-ing Society (01858 463244) has

an instant access account pay-

ing 5.9 per cent on sums of £1

specifically for charities and

paying competitive rates on

small balances are available

from the Nottingham and Saffron Walden Building

sums of up to £100,000 and

pays a 5 per cent rate of

interest, but will open charity

Tor higher balances, the

interest is paid yearly.

Take a charitable line on rates

Banks and building soci-eties are being urged to offer more flexible accounts and better interest rates to charities that bank with them. However, some providers that restrict the number of withdrawals from accounts say they do so to keep down

Even those banks that emphasis their ethical roots; such as the Co-Operative Bank, may not necessarily pay the best interest rates to charities. For example, the Co-Op Bank's investment account pays 4.34 per cent on balances of £500 and above. But that is restricted to a 90-day notice account. For cheque accounts. the rate is just 3 per cent on balances of £1 or more, but

charges may be levied. MoneyFacts, the money information service, prefers investment managers who offer tailor-made accounts for charities, COIF Charity Funds (017) 588 1815) has an instant access deposit account that pays interest of 6.85 per cent gross on sums of El or above.

The CafCash Account, run by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is offering a competitive rate of return (current interest rate: 6.77 per cent) on a minimum balance of El.

Sue Pavey, CAF Banking and Investment services man ager, says: "The account is open to registered charities and organisations with charitable aims. It was launched in. 1986 and pays the same rate of interest on sums of El and. above." CAF has an arrange-ment with Midland Bank that allows members to deposit eash at branches without charge. It has similar arrangements with banks in Scotland.

The CafCash deposit account does not provide cash withdrawals or overdrafts, so any cheques that might tip the account into the red are not cleared. CafCash also runs a cheque account that charges 20p for each cheque and provides standing orders, direct debits and foreign pay-

CAF has also launched a CafGold fund that has attracted £73 million of charitable money since the start of August. Ms Pavey says: "It is a



Give and take: it is often difficult to get a good return

straight deposit account with no chequebook facility and this allows us to pay higher rates of interest." There is no notice period for transfers of funds to other bank accounts. It is currently paying 6.85 per cent on balances under 52 million and 6.98 on balances over £2 million. CAF's banking service may be contacted on 01732 520033.

If you intend to set up a charity account and need to register officially to have charitable status, call the Charity Commission (0171-210 3000).

Under the Charmes Act, you have to keep accounts that may be viewed by the public. The Charity Commission has several leaflers explaining how to set up a charity. There are four main qualifying areas: religion, education, the benefit of society, and charitable

Ecology Building Society (01535 635933), pays 4.6 per cent yearly on sums en E25 and £50,000, while Marsden Building Society (01282 440500) accepts

> accounts only for local residents. Interest is yearly. An alternative is the Treasurer's Account, from National Savings, launched in September last year. It is available to non-profit organisations with a minimum of £10,000 to invest. It pays 5.5 tier cent gross on balances of £10,000 to £24,999 and 5.75 per cent gross on balances from

£25,000 to £99,999. Meanwhile, CAF, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and Charity Forum, is sponsoring the 1997 Charity Annual Report and Accounts Award. Deadline for entries is October 31 and there are prizes of £2,000. Call Nikki White. CAF, on 01732 520074.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Your Life Assurance can be cheaper



information about making do-

nations to charities in the most

Christine Bayliss, Money-

Faces investment editor, says

there are a number of good

available. She likes the North-

ern Rock (0500 505000) charity instant access account, which

cost-effective way.

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ORATE BOND PER

Susan Emmett on the importance of organisms Nothing left to chance The live of some susan Emmett on the importance of organisms Nothing left to chance

George Gershwin did not bother, and it certainly slipped the mind of Pablo Picasso. But they were not alone. Two out of three adults never make a will, according to the Law Society.

Even if your estate is not worth as much as Picasso's £290 million, dying intestate leads to administrative chaos and inevitable family arguments. In some cases only expensive legal action can resolve a disputed estate.

If you do make a will, you can ensure that even your most eccentric wishes are carried out. Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, left four friends £500 each on the ground that they should spend the same, within 12 months of receipt in some extravagance".

If you do not make a will, the Government will do it for you. The law only recognises relatives with a direct blood link so your hard-earned money might and your friends and family or favourite charities get nothing. Surely that is a far more morbid thought than confronting your own mortality? The Law Society thinks so, which is why it is organising Make a Will Week from October 27 to

If your estate is straightforward, you may think that making a will is easy. Most high street stationers will sell a DIY pack. All you need to do is fill in the form and save the money you would have spent

A will has to meet-certain legal requirements for it to be valid. For a start, it must be witnessed by two people who will not benefit from it. Unless this is done, the will is worthless. If your will is homemade, it is a good idea to snow it to a solicitor to avoid any mistakes. There are strict rules dictating where your money it to a solicitor to avoid any dictating where your money goes if you die intestate:

> Ummarried couples: Few people realise that the law does not recognise live-in part-ners. A couple may have been living together for years; but the surviving partner will get nothing. The money will still go: E125,000. This seems straight to the next of kin, however, forward if your estate is worth distant. The surviving partner less than that, but what if you could also lose their home, have property that is worth



Jimi Hendrix died intestate, which can cause family disputes

over 18 years old. The other half will go into a trust. Your spouse will receive the income

this generates but not the capital, which would eventual-

than £215,000, the threshold

for inheritance tax, legal advice is paramount. This may

seem a large amount but by

the time you count the house,

the car and the furniture it is

amazing how this threshold

disappears. Reducing the val-

ue of your estate during your life by making gifts is one way

to lessen this tax burden. But this is hardly ideal if you need

The passing of an estate

between spouses is exempt

from inheritance tax, but leaving it all to your partner will

liability when they die. It may

the money to live on.

ly go to the children.

unless the property comes under joint names.

Long-running disputes have arisen from families cutting off the deceased's partner. It is considered in half. The children possible to go to court if the surviving partner had been financially dependent on the deceased or they had lived together for more two years before the death. But the legal proceedings are usually long and complicated.

Married without children: It pays to make a will even if you are married. Under intestacy rules, if you have no children, the spouse will get everything up to £200,000. The rest is divided between your spouse and your parents. If your parents are no longer alive, their share will go to your brothers or sisters or their

Married with children Without a will, your spouse will get everything up to

good solicitor can draft your will so that your property is distributed in the most tax-

Appointing a grandian:
If you do have children, this is a good opportunity to discuss related issues such as appointing a guardian. There are no specific rules that govern who takes over the parent's role. This decision is left to the

surviving family.

But what happens if relatives are not able to cope with your children? Grandparents may be too old to look after lively teenagers and other close relatives may live miles away. A clause in your will puts everyone's mind at rest, including your children's, who may not want to live with their eccentric aunt and her cat.

You do not have to be rich to make a will, and it certainly will not cost much. The amount it takes to sort out problems caused by inade-quate home-made wills is usu-ally greater. Will-writing services, insurance companies, building societies and banks can all help with pre-

A straightforward will costs around E50 and a couple making similar wills would be charged £75. But many solici-

tors will be offering discounts during Make a Will Week. After making an appoint-ment to see a solicitor, list the will receive half once they are things you would like to leave. Include insurance policies, any property you own as well as treasured possessions. You must also list Premium Bonds, Tar liability:
If your estate is worth more even though they are not transferable.

You must also appoint an executor, who will be in charge of carrying out your wishes after your death. The executor or executors - you can have beneficiary of your will. Most people choose their grown-up children, a relative or a close friend. But your solicitor can act as executor if you do not know anyone suitable.

Once you have made your will; do not just put it in a drawer and forget about it children grow up, your finan-cial situation might change. It every three to five years.

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Steady ◆ Regular ◆ Tax-Free



If you have savings in bank or building society deposit accounts, and you're looking to get a higher return from your money, you should consider the Scottish Widows Corporate Bond PEP.

It offers you the potential for a higher, steadier income - and what's more, you receive all your Income tax-free. You can invest anything from £1,000 up to £6,000 - and you could expect an income of around 7.0% p.a., as you'll see below.

So, if a high regular income is what you want, and you'd also like it to be steady and tax-free, shouldn't you find out more about our new Corporate Bond PEP today?

7.06% p.a. Estimated Income Yield. 6.56% Estimated Gross Redemption Yield.

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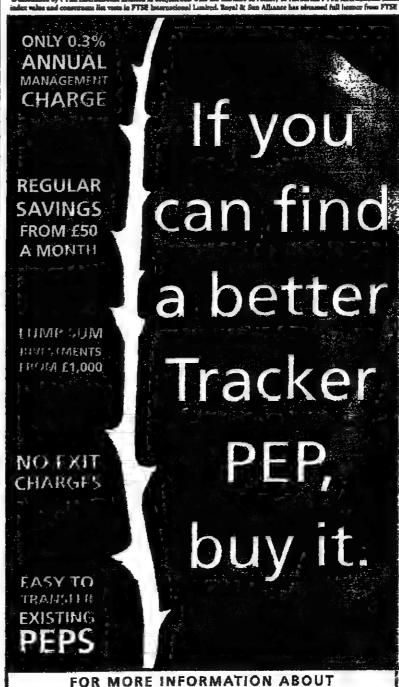
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B&B raises rates for investors

savers by between 0.1 and 0.45 per cent. The rate changes affect the following accounts: Instant Access - First Choice. Postal Instant Access. Postal 30-Day Notice. 120-Day No-tice Account and Mutual Bond. The building society has reaffirmed that its standard variable mortgage rate of 7.95 per cent will not be increased before January 31, 1998.

A guide to with-profit bonds has been produced by Rickman Tooze, the independent financial adviser. An estimated £12 billion is invested in the funds which are offered by leading insurance companies. The free booklet explains how with-profit bonds work, what returns can be expected, how bonus rates are paid, the charges that will be imposed, the possible risks, and the tax advantages of investing. Call 01285 650331

for a copy. Chartwell Investment Management has also produced a guide on the subject of withprofit bonds. Its booklet offers advice on what an investor should look for (allocation rates, terminal bonus history.

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2 Years

3 Years

4 Years

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> ■ The direct investment arm of Royal & SunAlliance has launched a Pep aimed at investors looking to save small amounts on a regular basis. The Invest On-line Rose Tracker Pep has a 0.3 per cent annual management charge, an initial charge of 2 per cent and no exit fee. The minimum investment is £50 a month or a £1,000 lump sum up to the Pep maximum of £6,000 a year. For further information, call 0500 100333.

Age Concern Financial Services has introduced a life assurance plan for older Commercial Union, Acceptance is guaranteed to anyone between 50 and 85 and a medical is not required. The Age Concern 50-Plus Life Plan is a regular premium non-profit whole-of-life policy: premiums are fixed for the full term and it has a 90-day money-back guarantee. Call 0800 330332 for more details.

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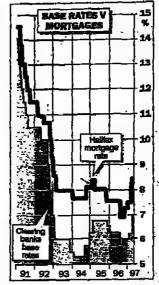
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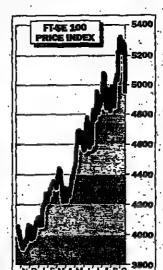
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INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	InvestDirect	Postal	£1	6,70	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Instantis	21,000	7.00	YĄ
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£2,500	7.06	Yľy
First National BS 0800 568844	Direct Access	PostalB	£5,000	7.45	Yly
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NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	pak
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	210,000	7.65	Yh
Chelsus BS 0800 132351	POST tel 40	40 day p	£5,000	7.30	YI
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	25,000	7.35	Yh
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day p	25,000	7,50	Yh
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Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	22,000	7.65	Yī
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	7.65	. Yh
Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811		5 year	£1,000	7.60	Y
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7,60	Yh

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	interest per month	APR%	Fee pe
Capital One Bank 0800 569000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	NI
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Ni
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	Base Rt Lnkd M/V	1.00%C	12.70%	Ni

Monthly payment on 25,000 for 3yra no insurance Direct Line 0181 680 9968 \$166.38 12.80%A £183.75 Capital One Direct 0800 216252 £166.54 12.90% E109.48 Alliance & Leic Gro 0990 626262 13.30%





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All figures are the gross a purchase), guaranteed 5 year	nnual ann	uity (£100	,000
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SINGLE LIFE (level ann) Male:		Age 65	Age 70
	£ 9,713	£10,791	£12,158
	£ 9,105	£10,200	£11,686
	£ 9,044	£10,136	£11,564
	£ 9,045	£10,073	£11,367
	£ 8,988	£10,050	£11,494
SINGLE LIFE Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Stalwart Norwich UnLevel Canada UfeLevel PrudentialLevel GeneralLevel	28,684	£ 9,528	£10,674
	28,490	£ 9,226	£10,314
	28,397	£ 9,222	£10,422
	28,386	£ 9,205	£10,648
	£8,156	£ 9,088	£10,968
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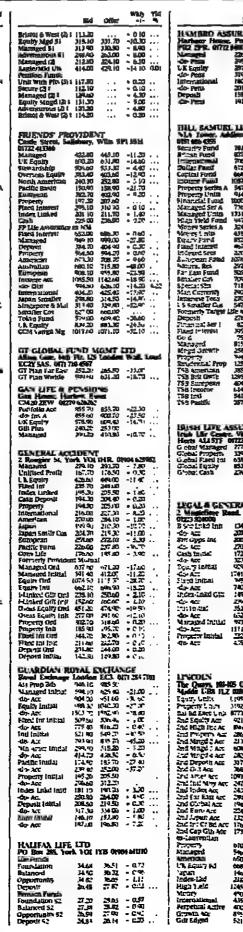
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THE RELIGIOUS PRESENCES. Definitely not a mutual friend

From Mr Paul Carwardine Sir, While Nationwide may be welcoming small investors back to the fold (Weekend Money, October 18) it would appear to be less enthusiastic about retaining its existing customers.

On Monday at 3.20 pm, I visited my local branch in Chelmsford with the objective of having my passbook

I found all the tills closed and was informed that since the end of September, trans-actions could be carried out only between Ham and 3pm.

I could, of course, use the automatic machines provided using my PIN, apart from the fact that Nationwide has

never issued me with such a disclose his PIN to everyone in number

I find it very difficult to remember the numerous PINs I already possess, or any number for that matter (I once rang directory inquiries when I forgot my home telephone number - to be told it was exdirectory) and prefer to deal in person, especially when pay-

ing money into accounts. This disregard for members' needs was further emphasised by the fact that the next customer was accompanied by a guide-dog and like me had expected to be able to conduct his business at the counter. To be fair to Nationwide, a member of staff oper-

ated the ATM for him - but,

of course, that meant he had to

... and your chosen subject: Your own Pin Numbers earshot, which was hardly in



Premium Bonds might look less fun if you knew the National Savings cut...

From Mr Robert J. Stradling Sir. Premium Bonds are a form of gambling that seems popular among your correspondents. As many seem to view Premium Bonds as a form of investment, I wonder whether they have ever taken time to consider whether they

are getting value for money. The odds of winning a prize in November's draw will be 19,000 to 1. Assuming a maximum holding of £20,000 and all prizes won to be £50, this might yield £631.58 a year, or 3.16 per cent net. At 23 per cent tax, this grosses up to 4.1 per cent and at 40 per cent tax the yield would be 5.27 per cent.

Gambling organisations make money by taking a cut. A typical cut might be where a casino would take £100 in bets and pay out £97 in winnings. The more bets, the more slices of 3 per cent the provider of this form of entertainment gets.

In Weekend Money of October 11, the best instant-access rate was quoted as 7.45 per cent gross. Given the above

parameters, the National Savings cut is therefore at least 29 per cent. This cut gets worse for standard-rate taxpayers and non-taxpayers (probably the vast majority of Bond holders), making for an even

more miserly return.

Whether Bond holders consider this value for money depends on the price they put on the enjoyment factor of the prospect of a big win and the security of the stake/capital being backed by the Government. Premium Bonds are therefore arguably an expensive bet. As ever, it is up to the investor to compare homes for his money. National Savings is a market-led organisation. If customers could see clearly the likely return on Premium Bonds, NS would have to increase the prize rates or face the same consequences as a high street deposit-taker that offered uncompetitive rates. Yours faithfully,

ROBERT J. STRADLING, 20 Livingstone Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire.

Quirks of tax rates and investors' income

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick Sir, Joe Wignall (Weekend Money Letters, October 18) comments on the tax position of dividend and interest income received by taxpayers paying basic-rate income tax at 23 per cent. Specifically, Mr Wignall queries whether such individuals face an income tax charge on the 3 per cent difference between the 23 per cent basic rate and the 20 per cent rate of tax deducted at source on dividend/interest

the interest of security.

business.

Yours faithfully,

Laurel House,

The Fairways.

Cold Norton:

Chelmsford,

PAUL CARWARDINE,

By coincidence, my next

visit was to my branch of

Lloyds Bank where the tills

were open, manned by helpful

and polite staff - and would

remain so until the close of

If the above experience is an

example of the advantages of

mutual status — the faster

Nationwide converts, or is

taken over by a bank, the

The answer to this is that a basic-rate income taxpayer does not face such a 3 per cent tax charge. This rather odd effect is achieved as a result of the tax legislation stating that dividend/interest income received by a basic-rate taxpayer is only taxed at 20 per cent, not at 23 per cent; as a result, and assuming that tax at 20 per cent has been

deducted at source, no further tax is payable by the basic-rate taxpayer on dividend/interest

The position is more complicated if the individual concerned is a higher-rate taxpayer. Broadly, higher-rate tax cuts in when taxable income exceeds £30,145; income received in excess of this will bear tax at 40 per cent. If dividend/interest income pushes an individual into the higher-rate tax hand, such income will be taxed at 40 per

The overall effect of this absurdly complicated tax regime is most easily illustrated with three examples, each of an individual in receipt of dividend/interest income (gross) of £2,000. In the case of an individual with taxable income (including the £2,000 dividend/interest income) of less than £30,145, the

be taxed at 20 per cent. In the case of an individual with taxable income of, say, £31,145, then £1,000 of the dividend/interest income will be taxed at 20 per cent and the other £1,000 at 40 per cent. Finally, in the case of an individual with taxable income of £32,145-plus, the whole of the £2,000 dividend/interest will be taxed at 40 per cent. One of these days, someone

may try to simplify our tax system. However, even with the current advancements in medical science, don't count on it occurring during the lifetime of anyone now living! Yours faithfully, M. C. FTTZPATRICK (Tax Partner, Chantrey Vellacott), Russell Square House,

10-12 Russell Square,

London, WCI

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Swallowing a fund of ethical nonsense

From Mr John A. Leefe Sir. Yet another survey by a minority single-issue lobby has produced the result intended by those who commissioned it. Why the media swallows and then promotes the findings of weighted question surveys like the one commissioned on pension investment by Ethical Investment Research is one of

THE SECTION

living on a retirement-pension,for the many thousands working in our politically incorrect industries, pension fund managers are made of investment of under 1 per cent of UK pension fund assets in ethical funds is therefore most reassuring

JOHN A. LEEFE, 3 Sowbury Park, Newbury.

.Tax calculations in the wrong key

From the Rev John B. Job Sir. The most prudent approach to self-assessment is to do the sums oneself, keep a copy, and then request the Revenue to do them - before it is too late, of course. The result in my case was that when its answer came, the balance had switched some hundreds of pounds in its favour, compared with my calculations. It transpired that my Fortunately for those of its in figures had been wrongly keyed in at the Revenue's end because two entries had chanced to be

> I readily forgive the mistake. But the weakness in the system response to one's return a printout matching the configuration of the form one sends in. If this were provided, it would make the discovery of errors much more straightforward. Yours faithfully, JOHN JOB.

6 Newhaven Close, Chesterfield.

TENOMEN SEEMS

fund managers, has written to 250,000 investors to detail a shake-up of its fund range. M&G announced on Monday its intention to focus on growth blue chip stocks alongside small and medium-sized companies. In the biggest change, its Extra Yield unit trust is to be renamed Extra Income and merged with the Equity income fund to create a £923 million unit trust.

■ ABBEY NATIONAL and NatWest Bank are to be investigated by a data privacy watchdog afer a bun-dle of confidential client documents, including details of names, addresses, counts, were found dumped in a Plymouth street. If the watchdog does uncover a serious breach of data protection rules, Abbey National and NatWest could both face enforcement orders or, in the worst case, unlimited fines.

■ PRUDENTIAL, the UK's higgest pension provider, has been rebuked by its regulator for pensions mis-selling failures. The Securities and Investments Board said the insurer did not act "with due skill, care and diligence" and added that it was "deeply concerned by the cumulative effects of the Prudential's failures". The SIB report

comes after the Prudential

for dealing with priority cases. Although the SIB has no powers to fine the company, the rebuke was designed to cause maximum embarrassment to Sir Peter Davis, the Prudential's group chief executive.

MI GENERAL ACCIDENT

has announced that it expects a 5 per cent improvement in earnings each year, plus annual cost savings of £33 million, after an agreed purchase of Canadian Insurance Group for C\$600 million (£265 million). Savings are predicted from 1999 ngwards Canadian General is the lith-largest property and casualty insurer in ees will be made redundant out of a workforce of 2,300. acquisition include a goodwill write-off of C\$440 million, which prompted some analysts to suggest that GA had overpaid.

I HALF of all homes are selling in less than six weeks and one in seven sells within a week or less, according to Black Horse Agencies' October Home Report. This is the fastest rate for two years and a result, the estate agency said, of a shortage of prop erties on the market. The average property is now fetching £79,000, up from £74,650 a year ago.

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M&G holders miss the FTSE express

".hree years of compre-hensive poor performance and one investment review later and M&G. once king of the fund management industry, is finally rubbing the sleep from its eyes. This week the company wrote to 250,000 unit-holders with plans to shake up a fund range which had, over the years.

become fatally predictable. Financial advisers have long complained about the uniformity of M&G funds which has been caused by the company's dogmatic adherence to "value" investing. This approach led M&G to spurn FTSE 100 growth stocks in favour or high-yielding small to medium-sized manufacturers.

Although for many years this served M&G well, in the low-inflation blue chip boom of the 1990s it has proved a disaster. Nearly all of M&G's 14 UK unit trusts have slumped to the bottom of the performance league tables. prompting many investors to switch to more up-to-date and

flexible fund managers. This week Michael McLintock, managing director of the M&G Group since February, put on the sackcloth and ashes of the penitent and confessed that the company had got stuck in its ways. He announced that the company was cutting its UK range to 12 trusts and was renaming and reorientating many of the funds to offer investors a wider range. Among the changes is a proposal to turn the M&G General Trust, the oldest UK unit trust, into the M&G Blue Chip Fund, a turnaround that would have been unheard of a generation ago,

Many investors would have been better off by hitching a ride on a tracker fund, says Gavin Lumsden

year, if unit-holders approve,

it will be merged with Equity

Income to create a £923 mil-

M&G is also hoping to

merge its little-used Trustee fund with the huge £1.2 billion

Dividend unit trust. This will have its yield target reduced

from 50 per cent to 33 per cent

above the Ali-share. Lastly, the

High Income fund will be

renamed simply Income and will run at a 15 per cent yield above the All-share.

owering the target yields

on two of the Income funds will allow M&G to

invest in a wider range of

stocks, which should allow it to

achieve a more consistent per-

formance. However, investors

in both funds will continue to

receive the same level of income

because M&G is switching the

way it takes its annual manage-

ment fee. In future the 0.75 per

cent charge will be taken from capital.

M&G has made similar

modifications to its growth and income funds by aftering

the extent to which they invest

in smaller companies. Again

the theme of the reforms has

been to reduce and vary

volatilty in the funds to offer

One of the more significant

changes is on the General unit

trust. Previously this fund

could invest in all UK-quoted

investors a real choice.

lion fund.

internal review which has seen M&G strengthen its investment process. M&G fund managers will no longer focus exclusively on high yields when selecting stocks but will now consider companies turnover growth, market share and cashflow before buying their shares.

However, Mr McLintock insisted that M&G was not abandoning its traditional values but would continue to adopt a contrarian, researchbased, long-term philosophy. He pointed out that M&G funds had started to recover in the past three months as income stocks came back into favour after a long period of unpopularity. However, the company was not relying merely on an external technical correction.

He said: "Ever since I joined here six years ago I have always felt that the fund range needed updating. I don't see why our approach cannot be applied across the full range of investment funds."

The development of the "full range" is most clearly seen in M&G's income stable. Whereas previously there have been four main funds all offering investors high yields, in future there will be three funds offering a range of yields.

At the high-income end, the

Extra Yield unit trust will continue to aim to yield 50 per cent more than the All-share overseas equities. Under Blue Chip, its new name, it will invest exclusively in FTSE 100 companies. This will give M&G investors a taste of the performance that they have

هكذامن رلإمل

The All-share beat now goes renamed Extra Income. Next to Second General, which loses its unoriginal title and is renamed UK Equity. There is no change to M&G Smaller

Companies.

M&G's reforming zeal seems to have faltered on its pure capital growth funds. Certainly there is less upheaval, with both Recovery and Capital, the special situations trust, staying the same. Compound Growth, ver, becomes UK Growth, and Midland & General becomes British Opportunities. This reflects the fact that British Opportunities is more risky and should offer greater returns than its more staid coun-

On its international funds M&G has mostly limited itself to dropping the word General from fund names. For example, M&G American & General becomes M&G American. In the case of the Japan unit trust, however, the ommission of General signals that the fund will no longer invest in the Pacific Basin

Financial advisers have wei-

comed the overdue changes but are cautious about recommending the funds until they see an improvement in performance. Tim Cockerill, investment director of Whitechurch Securities in Bristol, said: "I think they had to do this. The world has moved on and this is M&G catching up. However, it's one thing announcing the changes, but you've got to see



live kilos of potatoes and what is today's special offer on gas? Water, light and heat may not yet be stacked on supermarket shelves but for UK householders, just as for US consumers, the chance to shop around for household services has arrived.

From November 1, for example, some 2.5 million domestic gas users in Scot-land and the North East will be able to choose from 1! gas companies licensed as suppliers. The change should spell savings of about £10 a month on gas bills says Ofgas, the industry regulator.

Deregulation in the gas market began in April 1996 in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, followed earlier this year by Avon, Dorset, Sussex and Kent. Out of 1.5 million domestic gas users in these

Shopping around in the household services sale

areas, more than 515,000 have left British Gas. Average gas bills are estimated to have fallen 24 per cent between 1986 and 1996. On top of which, says Ofgas, deregulation has seen companies under-cutting BG's standard taxiff by up to 20 per cent — a £65 average annual saving.
Sixteen gas companies are currently licensed as suppliers in the UK. It is expected that all remaining areas of the UK will have been opened up to competition by June 1998, with Greater London and Surrey among the last. In an attempt to reassure customers in the new areas, Ofgas has drawn up market-

ing guidelines which it proposes to include as a licensing condition. The move comes after complaints in the early days of deregulation about high-pressure sales tactics and confusing marketing, which meant that some householders signed up to change supplier without understanding what was involved.

lectricity companies are also preparing for big changes. From next April, the UK's 26 million domestic electricity users can shop around. Four companies are in the first deregulation - Eastern Electricity, Yorkshire Electricity, Seeboard and Manweb, This means initially each group will be able markets. Deregulation across the remaining regions will begin later next year. Domestic electricity charges have fallen 15 per cent since 1990. Professor Stephen Littlechild, of Offer, the electricity industry regulator, has aiready unveiled 1998-2000 final pricing plans.

If accepted by the electricity companies, it will mean electricity bills cut by £24 on average. These final price proposals will, says Offer, give price restraints in transition to full deregulation.

Competition in the phone market is much further advanced. BT may still be the largest supplier but now has plenty of competitors, as the telecoms market becomes increasingly international, and draws in global players. Alongside operators such as Mercury, part of Cable & Wireless, the large multinational cable television groupings have been making their mark developing franchised areas across the UK offering both cable TV and low-cost phone services. BT estimates its phone charges have fallen in real terms by 50 per cent since privatisa-

played their part. BT's Friends and Eamily offer has signed up nearly 13 million phone users. The offer cuts the cost of calls to ten nominated numbers by 10 per cent, and is available free of charge, though initially when it was launched in 1994 there was a £5 charge.

However, consumers have had less to cheer about water rates. Since privatisa-tion in 1989, water bills have risen 88.2 per cent including inflation, and by 34.6 per cent in real terms. Lower prices are in the pipeline, says Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services. But customers will have to wait until 2000 before seeing how-efficiency savings and lower costs translate into lower water bills.

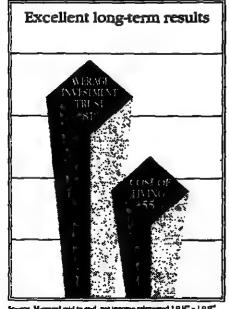
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MARKS & SPENCER

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Concern is growing over best-buy advice, says Patrick Collinson

Consumer Panel calls independents to book

independent financial advice? IFAs trumpet their skill at picking the right financial product for clients from the multitude available, but an official report out this week highlights growing alarm about restrictive and potentially commission-

related "best-buy panels". A best-buy, or best-advice, products, typically put together by a large firm of indepen-dent financial advisers, or a network of smaller IFAs. What s causing concern is the extent to which they represent not what is best for the client, but what is best for the broker's

Best-buy panels are clothed in secrecy. Few IFAs will reveal a list of which companies and products are on their panels, possibly fearing scrutiny of their choices. The common reason given is that best-buy paneis represent expensive research, which they do not wish to share with competitors.

The product providers —

largely life insurance and Pep companies - are desperate to gain entry to the best-buy lists or the guaranteed sales they

ead 103



A man alone: advisers' best-buy lists may not be all they seem

deliver. Up to a half of all product sales by IFAs are now via best-buy lists, and no product provider will openly criticise what are, in effect, their biggest customers. But in private the talk is of commis-

sion negotiations, which can tip a perfectly good product off a so-called best-buy panel to make way for one carrying a higher commission. This week the Personal In-

vestment Authority Consumer Panel, an independent body made up of a number of consumer and voluntary organisations, highlighted its concerns about the quality and impartiality of best advice panels. It recommended that clients be warned about the existence of a best-buy panel, that advisers should be allowed to go "off-panel" in their recommendations, and that there should be no set number of product providers on a best-buy list.

It also called for effective Chinese Walls, forcing product research and commission negotiations to be completely separated, to avoid best-buy panels simply reflecting which company is paying the best

Barbara Saunders, the Consumer Panel chairman, said: "It's very difficult to get clear answers about the extent to which commission is influencing product recommends-Advisers say that commission is not part of the equation, but we are not entirely convinced that that is always the case. We would be

ria advisers are using in best advice panels."

Bradford & Bingley, the

only remaining major high street building society which promotes independent finanoperates a best-buy list. Its list reveals that a customer seek-ing pensions advice from B&B will be offered a product from one of only six pension companies on its list, while the endowment choice is limited to just three providers. Yet Barbara Saunders says that she would expect a best-buy list to have many more than five

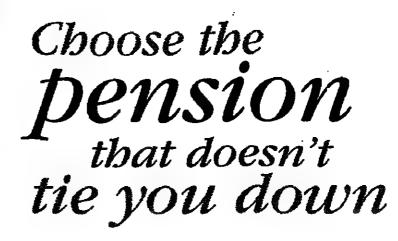
Lynn Coleman, Bradford & Bingley marketing manager, robustly defends the best-buy panel. She says B&B spends more than £100,000 a year researching products for the best deals and updates its best-

buy list regularly. But Roddy Kohn, of Kohn Cougar, the Bristol-based advisers, said: "We don't operate a panel. We don't take the product first and see how the genuinely tailor-make each piece of product advice to suit individual's particular

Mr Kohn, who is also a PIA board member, agrees that clients should be told of the someone goes to an IFA for total freedom and total choice then they should be told if what they are being offered is straight off the panel," he said. Another adviser said that a choice of just three to five

providers for a product categoennison, of Robson Rhodes, accountancy-based IFAs, said that although his company operates a best-buy panel, there are typically seven to nine products in each catego ry. "I would be surprised if a panel had less than five or six providers on it," he said.

Mr Kohn is calling for a maximum commission agreement, in which commission on product categories such as pensions and endowments would be standardised. This was tried out in the late 1980s, but promptly abolished by the Office of Fair Trading as "anti-



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Knight sallies forth for small shareholders



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



The healthy option for self-employed

Deing self-employed offers many advantages but the fear of being struck down by illness or injury always lurks at the back of the mind. This is why insuring your health when you are your own boss is essential.

This week Going Alone looks at permanent health insurance (PHI). PHI policies will normally pay up to 60 per cent of your gross monthly income if you are unable to work. Taking a policy out is not hard and can be as cheap or capensive as you want, depending on how soon you want the payments to start after you stop work. However, proving your income if you are newly self-conslowed could be tricky.

Go it aleac, peg

Radical review gets 1,000 replies

he Government has received more than 1,000 responses to a pensions review it hopes will deliver a radical solution to the problem of provision in the decades ahead.

The life assurance industry, plus all financial institutions with an interest in savings and investment, was invited to contribute during the two-months consultation period. The conclusions will form part of a Green Paper to be published at the beginning of next year.

In announcing the review, the Government urged the industry to leave no stone unturned. It wanted every avenue for the future of pensions explored, against a background of preserving the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps), and introduc-

ing a new concept of a "stakeholder" pension. This would be introduced to ensure that all members of society would be included in the new pensions regime, even those who did no paid work, or were on very low

wages.

While the Government considers the responses, DSS officials are putting together detailed proposals about the structure of "stakeholder" pensions themselves. Last week the DSS was still unable to give even a rough idea of what "stakeholder" actually meant.

Seen within the industry.

Some within the industry believe the Government will have to include some form of compulsion in its plans, while others believe this will be almost impossible to enforce. Many are concerned about the future viability of Serps. The

Government has been inundated with advice on the new stakeholder

pensions, says Caroline Merrell

fact that contributions from those entering the scheme have to be used to pay pensions of those retiring means that as the population ages, there will be less money to support more people. The DSS reiterated last week that the Government was committed to maintaining

n its review submission, the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), that represents hundreds of pension fund managers, claims that even the basic state

pension is not particularly efficient. The basic pension, currently worth about £62 perweek, will be roughly worth half what it is today. The NAPF claims the present basic pension system is wasteful. It says: This is because it provides money that is not strictly needed for the rich. We therefore believe in a targeted basic state pension, but without the disad-

vantages of post-retirement means-testing." Controversially, the NAPF believes Serps is unlikely to be an efficient method of delivering pensions. It says: "Our view is that the accrual of Serps should cease for those under the age of 50 and existing benefits should be preserved

The NAPF is also keen to preserve and extend the benefits of occupational schemes, but believes those who do not have a company scheme should put 10 per cent of their wages in a stakeholder plan. It adds: "Modelling has shown that with total employee/employer contributions of 10 per cent, a high proportion of individuals could look forward to an adequate income from the stakeholder pension." The NAPF thinks 10 per cent contributions would produce a pension equivalent to 50 per cent of final extent.

Legal & General, in its submission in the Government, is against compulsion. "The new system should be votuntary not compulsory. Our own research shows that there is now widespread public acceptance that the State cannot provide generous pensions in future, all that is needed to galvanise those feelings into actions," it says. L&G wants the basic state pensions privatised, to help to boost the pensions

Pearl wants the stakeholder pension made up of a national insurance element, some personal contributions and some automatic life cover with some premium paying flexibility, with premiums continued to be paid if customers lose their jobs.

of the low paid. It also wants stakeholder pensions easily





Marianne Curphey on the lure of commission

HOME BUYING

Is this the end of the studio flat?



INVESTMENT



62
Savings
group takes
a new track

WEEKEND MONEY



Saving for Your Future



WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

More fireworks over Hong Kong



total of 12 per cent this week, substantially cutting the value of the 15 billion held by UK investors in Far Eastern unit trusts.

The fall, triggered by the currency turmoil in other Asian countries, is the first of the shocks predicted by many fund managers after the handover of the colony to the Chinese at the end of June.

At one point during the week, the mar-

ket had dropped 16 per cent, the biggest fall since the October 1987 crash. Other stock markets around the world fell on the back of the collapse. However, some recovery seemed on its way yesterday with the Hong Kong market up 700 points.

At the time of the handover, some in the

At the time of the handover, some in the investment community said the Hong Kong stock market was bound to be volatile. The source of volatility was expected to be the Chinese Government — any hint of a return to hardline communism would have a big impact on share prices. None predicted that Hong Kong would suffer from the same problems that have hit

Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. The currencies of all three have been devalued in the wake of wave after wave of currency speculation in the region.

The fact the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US dollar has been central to economic stability for the colony. According to fund managers. UK investors looking at losses on their Hong Kong trusts should take heart from the pledge by the Chinese that it plans to keep the currency peg in place. Devaluing the currency would substantially cut the value of Hong Kong shares in sterling. If the pattern of the other Asian countries were followed, then a devaluation would almost certainly be followed by further falls in stock prices.

However, the cost of keeping the currency pledge in place will almost certainly be higher interest rates. Any increase in interest rates will hit both the commercial and residential property market. The performance of about 40 per cent of the companies in the Hang Seng index is directly related to the property market.

The other big companies in the index are the banks and companies that reap most of their profits from China, the so-called red chips. The banks will also be hit by any rise in interest rates, while many fund managers have had concerns about the valuations of the red chips for some time.

ugh Young, managing director of Aberdeen Asset Management (Asia), said that problems for UK investors with holdings in Asia had been exacerbated because many investment houses had switched their investments into Hong Kong believing it to be immune to the problems that are affecting the other areas of the region.

He pointed out that the peg meant the country could keep interest rates down even though headline inflation was high. He said: "For the last five years, money has been virtually free in Hong Kong." He felt the outlook for the market was rocky in the short term.

CAROLINE MERRELL



HALLOWE'FN



SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 1997

Tricks
and treats
for
little
horrors



Fur to die for: return of the fabulous fakes

GARDENING



England's prop chills out in Bath

TRAVEL



Take a flying leap into the virgin snow

THE

WEEKEND

Elton John: Why I love my garden



The singer explains how gardening captured his heart and why he has turned 30 acres of Berkshire into his most prized possession

a swellering summers day last year. Sir Roy Strong one larguigh the gilled has of them John's countries of the stately reque of the stately orangery as seed leaf ceiling, to specific traisin garden. Elling, whose record

just become the world's best-selling single, ousning Bing Crosby's White Christmas, was waiting in the drawing room of Woodside, Old Windsor, where he had had thrown open the French windows. The sun was streaming through and there, in front of them, was the new balustraded terrace. Sir Roy had designed, leading on to his box parterre with

statues. "We threw our arms around each other in the drawing room and danced for joy," Sir Roy recalls. "There is an enthusiasm and a delight about Elton and his garden which is infectious."

Elton had asked him to design an Italian garden on the advice of the late fashion designer Gianni Versace. He says: "I asked Sir Roy, who had designed Gianni's garden in Como, to do it because of their friendship," he explains. "The Italian gardens were done very quickly, starting in January and finishing in

Elton's love of gardens goes back to his childhood:
"My grandfather died when I was five and my grandmother, Ivy, eventually remarried a man called Horace Sewell, who had one leg — he lost the other in the First World War. He was the first person I knew who was crazy about gardening. He worked for a gardening

most amazing gardener, a real dahlia man. Besides garden, which he our loved, Horace had a couple of allotments and he grew incredible flowers: roses; his beloved dahlias, which he used to exhibit at the local agricultural show every year; chrysanthe-mums, which I don't particularly care for, sweet peas and various vegetables. My grandmother Ivy always loved gardening too, and was a marvellous gardener. So they were

both extremely influential.

"I really care about the

watching

integral part of human life. In the house where I was born in Pinner Hill Road, we had a beautiful garden and we always had a mass of flowers in the house throughout my childhood. Even though the gardens of my youth were small and suburban, they were invariably pretty. As a kid, you're always made to mow the lawn. I didn't mind mowing, but weeding I hated. I've always loved gardens and I've always loved flowers but I

ers and plants are such an

Continued on page 2

GARDENING 68 PROPERTY 12.13 HOME LIFE 15 COUNTRY LIFE 16 FAITH 19 TRAVEL

L'Art de l'Assemblage by Baron Philippe de Rothschild

To create wine as good as this you need a tongue like a tuning fork.

To enjoy it, all you need is a corkscrew and a friend.

MOUTON CADET

Fine vintage wines from Bordeaux.





Treasures: a wooden gazebo and fountains (left), and an 18th-century gazebo with a grey-green cupola and stone pillars

Continued from page 1

haven't got green fingers." Elton is particular about his There are certain ones which I simply can't abide — chrysthanthemums, which remind me of death and which I absolutely refuse to have in my hotel rooms. I loathe baby's breath and I'm not very fond of carnations. I can't stand them in a vase or on their own, and I can't believe men actually wear them in their buttonholes. The only place where they are pretty, and should remain, is in a garden."

Have flowers influenced his music? "I can't say that they have - in any way other than having them around when I work out a melody."

He likes vegetables, too.
My vegetable garden, in which everything is organically grown, is just fabulous. Everything is healthy and tastes better. And as for our pumpkin that won third prize in horricultural show, I've

never seen a bigger pumpkin in my life — it weighed 170lb. I was so proud. When you have a garden

this size, you have to have enough people caring for it. Charlie, our head gardener. years, is very knowledgeable. We have five extremely good, full-time gardeners, which I think is absolutely necessary. We cut roses, gladioli, sweet peas, sweet-william, peonies, yellow daisies, dahlias and scabious from the potager and garden, which is lovely."

Elton's gardens and wood-land at Woodside, which stretch for more than 30 acres, are treasured beyond most of his possessions. "I love coming home to this house," he says, "It gives me a sense of peace. When I go on tour people often say to me, 'How can you bear to leave Woodside?' I tell them the only way I can is knowing I can come back to it. I go through these gates, knowing I'm away for

three or four months and think, God, how much I long to get back'. When I do, I see the garden changing - there's always something magical

happening here.
"Woodside is the hub of my soul probably: the centre of my life. My other houses - in London, Atlanta and the south of France - are like appendages to the tree." About six years ago, Elton asked the Prince of Wales's

septuagenarian garden de-signer Rosemary Verey to help him create something special. "I love nooks and crannies in gardens. Rosemary Verey de-signed two English cottage gardens at Woodside, one of which has a porcelain pathway. They are very magical and special places for me. She placed two seats in them and I love to sit there contemplating in the summer time, surrounded by huge holtyhocks, globe thistles and drifts of

forget-me-nots."

Mrs Verey is delighted by Elton's enthusiasm: "He loves the final effect, he really does," she trills. "I feel sure that he walks around his garden as much as he can. He loved all the plants that he remembered as a child, such as lupins,

tulips and delphiniums. One of the first borders I did was all in rainbow colours. I call it the rainbow border. In fact, when he invited me to his fancy-dress birthday party last

year. I went as the rainbow border." Mrs Verey also planted a scented garden and an Sth-century garden. "I have enjoyed walking round the garden with Elton. I always think Elton is actually a genius. In the wood there is a red pillar box as well as the telephone box. And there is Daisy the Dinosaur he was given by Paul McCartney. Daisy was in the middle of the lawns, but was removed by helicopter to the woods. If you walk past the dinosaur at

walk has the eyes light up."
Sir Roy Strong remembers a railway carriage in the middle of a lawn. "Elton asked the what he should do with it. Well, I should leave it where it is.' I said.

"There is a kind of beguiling eccentricity to the garden. His enthusiasm is both guided and misgoided but it has a warmth. He has an original streak but it is totally un-trained. There is nothing wrong with that, but Gianni Versacel was working on it. Elton is a most sweet and affectionate person. - At his



Talking point an old red telephone box with a sylph-like female statue, garlanded with pink camellias, as a caller

birthday, when he went round all the tables, I got up and kissed him on both cheeks."

The admiration is mutual. People like Sir Roy Strong can teach you so many things," Elton says. "And Rosemary's a sensational woman. She's incredibly energetic, never stops... I don't know how she does it. She's just a wonderful creature. I her." Nevertheless. Elton's decision to

bring in the Ital-

ian garden did

not go down well with Mrs Verey, since one of hers had to be flattened. The only logical place you could have it near the house, and at the same time reach into the field to get the right perspective, was where Rosemary had planted the beautiful white garden,"

didn't want to get rid of her garden, so we shifted it over, and now it will have to grow all over again. Already the white flowering roses, one of

"It was a wrench, because I

Elton explains.

my favourites, are flourishing. The Italian garden, with its mass of scarlet geraniums surrounded by boxwood, is very striking because you can go and look at the house from the avenue of trees leading to the obelisk and the house. looks better than before."

Mrs Verey's disappointment is palpable. Although she would never admit it publicly, she clearly feels that an Italian Classical garden is not quite the thing to go with a postwar mock Georgian house. "My initial feeling was that I got upset. But for goodness sake, it's not my

garden, it's his." Sir Roy is diplomacy itself, although there is a sense that he is not fanatical about Mrs Verey's cottage gardens being attached to a house of this size. "She was very sweet. She sent

me a letter saying how nice the Italian garden looked when it was finished."

Like many moneyed individuals. Elton "likes the instant," says Sir Roy. And if a whim such as an Italian garden takes him, so be it. Elton says: "Apart from a few trees, this garden is only six years old. When I had the house redone, we flattened everything and basically started again. You have to be

very, very patient. It'll take a long time for it to grow and evolve, but one of the joys of having a new garden like this is that every year you see it blossom; it grows fuller and you can watch it mature. "Down by the monkey tree near the Orangery we have

just planted some Japanese maples. Having witnessed the most amazing autumn I have ever seen in Atlanta, the most richly beautiful of all the seasons I think, and seen how that red colour changes. I came home with a special urge to plant some. So that is another special nook I love.

"We probably spend more money on trees than anything else, but it is so beautiful to plant things like my favourite... oaks, as well as weeping willows, magnolias and the big catalpa [Indian bean tree] on the front lawn, and to watch things grow and prosper.

The nice thing now is that I get up at seven o' clock in the morning, I see the sun rise. and notice how beautiful it is here first thing in the morning; how peaceful the cows look in the fields in the summertime."

● Adapted from Elton John's Flower Fantasies: An Intimate Tour of his House and Garden, by Caroline Cass (Weidenfield & Nicholson, £ [8.99].

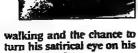
> Photographs by ANDREW TORT



A satirical walk with **BILL BRYSON**

READERS are invited to a forum with the bestselling author Bill Bryson, when he will read extracts from his gripping new book. A Walk in the Woods, giving accounts of his experiences along the longest footpath in the world, the Appala-

chian Trail. The trail promised Bryson endless days of



native America. The forum on Tuesday. November 4, will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way. London WCl, at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) include £2 off the price of A Walk in the Woods (Doubleday, El6.99).

Please send me ______ticketh) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Bill Bryson Forum on Tuesday. November at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way. London WCl

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Above an indoor statue draped with roses, lilies and ornamental cabbages, all entwined with vine leaves and ivy. Right: Elton's shoes topped with cyclamens

A day in the life of The Ivy

A.A. Gill clocks in for a double shift at the restaurant where London's

elite wine, dine and clinch deals

regular haunt of the rich, the famous and the beautiful people, The Ivy is one of the hardest restaurants in London at which to get a booking. Those who succeed tend to be from a certain background: media, theatrical and wellconnected types. A busy day at The Ivy is, as might be expected given its staff and its clientele, a drama all of its own.

6.45am: The day begins. This kitchen looks like the engine room of a beached battleship, all iron and steel pipes and ducts, thick and corrugated, worn rough and.

The commis chef puts a pot, big enough to boil a small missionary, on to the wide burner and chucks in skeleton segments of bones two-hand-edly. This cauldron will simmer and bubble all day until the bones are bleached dry, making stock, the fuel of traditional kitchens - sticky, meaty, chameleon goodness that is the base for scarps, sauces and glazes.

7.15am: The day's first delivery: bags of potatoes, boxes of squash, carrots, onions, beans.

8.00am: Breakfast. Bacon sandwiches for the kitchen, sliced white, chin-dribbling, eaten standing. The first Black Suit arrives. A front-ofhouse manager, he hurries through the dining room turn-

Over by the hellish deep fat fryer, a big chef takes a small onion bhaji, fries it and presses it, tries it again and takes it to the sous-chef to

"Not enough sait". He gives it to me to taste. "Not enough saft". Better put some more salt

9.00am: The Ivy is having a problem with lunch. It's not that tables might be unoccupied, but most of the large tables have been given to

egulars.
The margin for profit in a taurant, even one as popular as this, is measured in single figures, and a table for four with two people sitting at it is as big a waste as the kitchen dropping a whole goose liver down the waste disposal unit. What they want is a couple of sixes.

9.30am: Mitchell, the restaurant manager, arrives already dressed in his suit, ploughing back and forth across the restaurant like the captain's cutter, checking, checking. Service is all in the detail.

10.00am: The souschef bustles past a mill of waiters to a white plastic board and writes "Fish of the day" with a felt pen. Swordfish -

no nots, no garlic". Mitch swings through the restaurant again, checking Worcester sauce, mustard -English and French - Tabasco for cysters and steak tartare and ketchup for whatever you like.

11.30am: Mitch calls the waiters, now changed into in their black uniforms, to a pre-lunch briefing. The bookings are

Table One", Mitch says, "Harry Clorex and one guest. Mr Clorex is a literary agent." And so it goes.

Table Thirty's got a plane to catch. Twelve will have liver well done, but no bacon. Watch that India Puce doesn't. have to pass Perdita Dose they're both up for the same



In the kitchen of The Ivy, the quest for perfection is relentless. It is a never-ending ritual of tasting and seasoning, with the ultimate aim of pleasing some of the most famous palates in London



Media's movers and shakers launch countless schemes behind these doors, left, and right, the catch of the day

12.00pm: The caress of ma-Chicken and Caesar Salad nipulation does not stop at the jam. The chef, Des McDonald, table. The Ivy knows how you should sit. Couples on dates shouts out the complete order so everyone can synchronise. He is a big, imposing, fright-ening man. There may be are arranged side by side or at right angles. Strangers, negotors or colleagues are opplovable chefs, but I've yet to osite. A table for three is meet one at work.

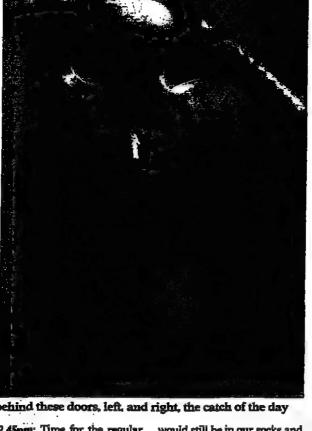
The pastry section main-tains a semblance of calm, but complicated. If two of the three are married or work together. even here, the chefs' voices it may be natural to place the submerged beneath the din, singleton between them, but that's all wrong. He'll spend his time swivelling his head, their grumpy insouciance could only be French.

1.30pm: The bar is

full as co-owner 1.20pm: In the kitchen there is Jeremy King walks a problem: a Bang-Bang into the restaurant. For every service, either Jeremy or his partner Chris Corbin will spend some time in the restaurant. He stops at a novelist and his agent. The writer is ecstatic that someone actually wants to talk about his book rather than deals and print runs and electronic rights and begins to explain the plot. Raising a hand, Jeremy smiles and asks him not to spoil it for him.

> 2.00pm: There's still a traffic am, but the panic has ebbed. Mitch emerges with a plate of pasta tied in knots. The chef nas a forensic pick through it. Well, it happens.

2.30pm: In the kitchen, hunch is virtually finished. There are a couple of tables which may or may not want pudding, but there is no time to sit back and admire the morning's work.



2.45pm: Time for the regular weekly meeting to taste specials. The Ivy operates on the simple edict that you start with what the customer wants to we should eat. eat - not with what the chef Diners are on their feet

4.30pm: The doorman arrives. Glad-hand, Irish matey. He swivels around the reservations book and makes a note of his favourite customers. Evening maître d'hôtel, Fer-

nando, a slight, bespectacled fellow, hurries in late. A table tively perfect time is a continual concern for him. His great skill is not to appear too busy.

5.30pm: The first pre-theatre diners trickle in. They tend to be slightly older than the later sittings, from a generation that doesn't mind eating when it's still light. Theatre curtains go up at about 7.30, and everyone has to be fed two, occasionally three, courses with enough time to make the curtain and order the interval drinks. The head waiter can't hold up the orders to ease the lot of the kitchen. They just have to get on with it.

The chef stands, bellowing. "Seventeen. Two Caesar, one Shepherd, one Fish of the Day, Pommes Allumettes, Table Twelve in one minute."

8.30pm: The restaurant is full. If we were in France we would be thinking about where to go at this time. In Spain we

would still be in our socks and underpants. But for the British, 8.30 is when convention, digestion and babysitters say

talking and glad-handing. This table-hopping business is an essential part of the arts and media world. You couldn't begin to count

the number of magazine lea-tures, films, television programmes, theatre produc-tions, books and radio series that have had their genesis or some part of their history in

9.30pm: On his arriv-al, Chris glances at the reservations book. There's a quivering 30 seconds while he absorbs the room. It's good tonight. The buzz, the feeling of enjoyment and expectation. The mix is right, a balance of pretty and witty. There is the sound of slithering. Unremarkable to the untrained ear, it's followed by a loud crash.

10.00pm: Hell, hell, hell. A runner has dropped a tray. Dinner for a table of four has fed gravity. Two Cassoulet, Sea Bass, chips, Caesar Salad, plates, un cloches, the whole sodding lot on the floor.

The floor of the kitchen is now treacherous, a slick film covering everything. A porter pushes a long mop like an ancient Rastafarian's head round the walkways.

"Special. Table Fifteen. One 2.00am: In the restaurant, The dinner comes again.

The runner puts it carefully on the trav. 10.30pm: Tables are turning

as the non-theatre diners depart and the theatre crowd acquaintances passing. "How was it?" "How was the duck?"

How was the leading

11.00pm: A first-night party arrives with a bantering clamour like a group of Rada students making their first entrance as Montagues and Capulets. An opening night at a small, trendy, sold-out

theatre. The young star looks up and sees his glittering future un-fold in a string of adoring Ivy

diners. Chris raises his eyebrows to the waiter. Champagne. On the house.

tables to go. The manager thinks one 11.45pm: Just two may be a no-show, the other has called to say they'll be late. They are reminded that the kitchen closes at midnight. They want to

order from the car. It's slowing down and the chefs are thinking about home and night buses. The porters, though, are at full stretch. The crates of detritus stack up. Bags of rubbish are humped into the street for the late-night binmen. If you ever need to get rid of a body, leave it in a bin bag outside the Ivy. No one would notice.

12.30am: Upstairs, the private party breaks up, drunkenly. A record producer with a grey ponytail and chardonnay down his Comme des Garçons shirt tells a waiter to pass on his compliments to the chef.

1.00am: A few tables linger over coffee. A girl with a big bosom has joined a table with two journalists. She sits with her chin on her hand, her chest resting on the hack's arm. She isn't listening.

1.30am: The waiters wait until the last customer has left before beginning to tuck up the room for the night. When the house lights come on, the spirit of the drama is still palpable.

1.45am: Downstairs in the staff dining room four waiters and a couple of cooks slouch over their on-the-house cans of beer and chain-lit fags. Their exhaustion is apparent as they sit in their street clothes, unwilling to depart finally into the cold, quiet night.

2.30am: The managonly the manageress and one eress has a final waiter remain. Beautiful as a check, switches off the lights and opens Degas, she sits with her head on one side, filling in the log, the back door. Eighty-two staff compiled after each siming: "A have fed 425 people. Eight good evening. Atmosphere fun. Sir Rowland was in glasses and four plates have been broken. No one's had a looking well. First night of baby. There were three marpagne. Runner dropped tray behind Table Fifteen, just no, one don't know.

The manageress locks up and she and the waiter walk Kitchen coped well. Ran out of down the empty street. As they reach the corner, he snakes an arm round her waist. She looks up, they kiss.

> Taken from The Ivy, the Restaurant and its Recipes, by A.A. Gill, (Hodder & Stoughton, E25)



CANARD-DUCHÈNE. CHAMPAGNE SANS FORMALITÉ.

missed them — no casualties.

serving spoons. Everyone

She puts the book away and

goes down to hurry the por-

ters. The waiter sits on the bar

and kicks his heels. Behind

him, the ashtrays and coffee

turned up."

cups drip dry.



like it's the Centre Court.

Designer Paloma Picasso has reinforced London's reputation as a hip city. She shops at Guinevere, Mike Cable reports

On the scent of fine finds

The fact that the supremely cosmopolitan Paloma Picasso chose to make London her home four years ago is a sure sign that the city is the world's most fashionable capital.
"New York wasn't fun any more,

in Paris people were very negative and in Italy. Germany and the rest of continental Europe the mood was very depressed," Picasso says, "But in London I sensed a completely different atmosphere. There was a feeling that the worst was over and the place was starting to buzz again. Because I travel so much I'm very sensitive to that sort of thing."

Together with her new partner, French osteopath Eric Thevenet, she moved into a five-storey Chelsea town house and set about redecorating it from top to bottom, a project that involved regular visits to the King's Road antiques shop

"I do love to decorate my houses," says the 47-year-old multi-millionairess whose name is synonymous with designer chic. "For me. picking up various interesting objects is the first step in the process of creation.

What I particularly like to do is to take things that don't belong to each other and make them work together. That's almost the way I work as a designer, too. I like to play with colour in a way that's unexpected and to marry things that are not supposed to go together.

For anyone with that approach, Guinevere, with its rich, magpie collection of unusual antiques from around the world - everything from 2,000-year-old Chinese tomb soldiers and Han Dynasty pottery to Anglo-Indian furniture and a unique 19th-century French steel sideboard — is a great source of inspiration.

The shop was opened in 1964 by French-born former milliner Genevieve Weaver, who now runs it as a family business with her sons Kevin and Marc, and has watched it expand from one shop to a series of ten show-rooms.

As a teenager in the Sixties, Picasso would fly to London every weekend to join in the "Swinging London" scene, and soon she had scores of fashionable friends, including Manolo Blahnik, who introduced her to the store.

"The first thing I ever bought here was a huge 17th-century Venetian door, carved to look like a draped curtain," she recalls. "I fell in love with it, even though I had nowhere to put it at the time. Three years later, when I was living in New York, I had a letter from the shop asking me very politely if I would please come and pick it up, and I favourite shop



Where art and design merge

eventually had it made into a spectacular cabinet for my Paris

Today, she also uses Guinevere as a source of last-minute birthday presents, "I rum in here and 20 minutes later I usually come out with a really wonderful gift." she

Picasso is always on the look-out for unusual objects; particular favourites in Guinevere include silver and crystal champagne bot-tles into which the Edwardians would decant their bubbly to reduce the bubbles. "So that it wouldn't make the ladies burp," explains owner Marc Weaver.

The designer is also intrigued by what turns out to be a moustache-waxing kit in solid silver from a 19th-century gentleman's travelling dressing set. "I love the sort of things that leave you trying to figure out exactly what they're for," she chuck-les, adding: "If I find something I think is just right, I am not bothered about the price."

Picasso can afford to be generous. On top of the fortune she inherited her father — who named her after the dove logo he designed for the 1949 Peace Congress in Paris she has made millions more in her

own right as a designer. Although she trained as a jewellery designer, it was in partnership with her former husband Rafael Lopez-Cambil that Picasso turned herself into a one-woman industry generating sales through her lipsticks, make-up and fashion



accessory empire of nearly one billion dollars a year.

Her image, in posters and photographs, has always been the rather intimidating one of a style icon pale face, jet black hair and trademark slash of red lipstick. But, in the flesh, and still dressed from

head to foot in black, she turns out to

be friendly and easy-going. "People are always surprised when they meet me for the first time," she says. They expect me to be some sort of Valkyrie but I'm actually rather shy. And being shy, it is sometimes useful to hide behind

that image, to frighten people away before they find out I'm frightened

of them." Although she travels extensively on business. Picasso is no longer interested in leading a reientless social life. "I no longer want to go out to parties," she says. "That's one reason why I left New York - to get away from the social pressure. These days I am quite happy to stay

in and watch television." ● Guinevere Antiques, 574-580 King's Road, London SW62DY (0171-736 2917), Open: Mon-Fri,

GADGETS

Glan

DAZZUNG smiles in Hollywood tend to be like Baywatch suntans fake. Dentists in Los ing trade bleaching teeth whiter-than-white. but if that seems a bit drastic you could just try clean-ing them with Philips's Jordan 2-Action plaque removing electric toothbrush.

Attached to a chunky body, the brush has two small heads, which oscillate' independently for optimum cleaning power in and around teeth and ums. It has two speeds; the slower one gentler on sensitive teeth.

The Jordan feels too big for even my mouth, and using it seems im-possible without drib-bling like a baby. It does leave you orally refreshed - only the hefty price tag leaves a nasty taste in the mouth.

THE "hyG Ionic" toothbattery and claims to remove plaque by chang-ing the polarity of your teeth. Apparently our teeth have a negative polarity and the brush makes them positive. put this to my dentist nicknamed Lil (as in The Drill'), and she laughed it off as a gimmick. She recomn daily brushing with a

TIM WAPSHOTT

 Philips Jordan
 Action electric toothbrush, £59.95 from Philips (0181-689 2166) £19.99, plus p&p, from The Leading Edge (0171-499 7891).

BARGAINS

There are bargains to be had at markets, boot sales, junk shops and stalls all over the country. With £100, what would you buy?

RECKONED by the British Tourist Authority to be London's fourth biggest tourist attraction. Camden Lock Market is a youth culture magnet loaded with Sixties memorabilia. Collectors converge on

Camden Lock in search of pop

records, ceramics, even relics of pop history such as old training shoes. This obsessive's market can drive up prices. There is a shop in Camden Lock called Caveat Emptor, and this principle should be observed at all times. Equally, haggle with stallolders, who may well be able to let things go for a lot less. Most visitors just stroll

around savouring the atmosphere. But then part of the fun is buying things spontaneously. My £100 bought these curiosities:

Coventry Road, Hinddey,

Leicestershire LE10 OJX



Camden booty: and all for £100

 An old book on English furniture. £3. A house music compilation tape, £5. Taped badly from the radio, it was a bit of a waste. But a Jimi Hendrix video was a good buy at £8.50. A kitschy vase for E5 was reasonable enough. More substantial was an Indian table drum for E38, reduced by a tenner, i was also pleased with a British Picquotware aluminium teapot for £20; a good price, as they can go for quite a lot more. Finally and somewhat inevitably, a pair of second-hand jeans, E20. Total: £99.50.

OLIVER BENNETT

It'll be all fright on the night

HALLOWE'EN

Hey-ho for Hallowe'en. All the witches to be seen. Some in black and some in Hey-ho for Hallowe'en!

ON FRIDAY, there will be witches and monsters, hobgoblins and ghosties flitting in the moonlight, yelling rhymes, putting out sticky linle paws, and scaring neighbours into handing over ghostly treats. Forget Guy Fawkes: in the past few years, the British traditions of gunpowder and sedition have been replaced by an American-style feryour for Hallowe'en - the eve of All Saint's Day.

The festival has all the hallmarks of American excess - almost £2.5 billion a year is spent there celebrating. And despite warnings from vicars who see the festival as satanic, and the publication of a booklet by the Association of Christian Teachers persuading parents to divert children into more saintly activities. Hallowe en has become almost as big here as Easter.

Every large supermarket chain has a range of festive trick-or-treat goodies, and there are dressing-up shops selling or hiring out clothing, from hand-made ones Party Party (0171-267

the high street. If you have left it too late to shop yourself, help is at hand on the Internet. through Yell, the Yellow Pages website (http://www. yell.co.uk). Here, you will find lists of fancy-dress shops, make-up suppliers and stores offering delivery.

Whatever the scaremongers say about evil influences, Hallowe'en is a time for fun. The children we photographed here really got into the spirit: the cats miaowing and hissing, the ghosts howling, and the monsters and Darth Vader lashing out with their lasers. There was only one ghastly scene - when the costumes had to come off.

LISA GRAINGER

BACK ROW (from left): Eve, 9, wears Darth Vader costume, £44.99; and carries a Star Wars light sabre, £9.99, from The American Party Store (0171-493 2678). Trick or treat bag, £3 99, from Marks & Spericer, Francesca. 9, wears a ghost costume 925, from March Gras (0181-597 4351), and plastic ghost hands, 62 99 from Safeway (01622 712987); her twin, Stevie, lums into a monster, £25, from Mardi Gras, and carries a skull candy-grabber, \$1.29, from Tesco (0800 505555).

CENTRE ROW: Army Jame, 5, wears a take-fur Tiger costume, 922 95, from The Hill Toy Company (0171-937 8797), Inflatable Pumpkin. £6 99, from The American Party Store. Hollie, 6, wears the Pumpkin Pie Costume £15.99, from The American Party Store (as abc/e), and cames a plastic light-up trick or treat carner, £2.99, trom Saleway.

FRONT ROW: Ficra. 2 turns into a writch, £24.99, from Selfridges (0171-629 1234) on her broomstick, £3.95, from Hill Toy Company. Jo. 2, wears the pirate costume, £14.95, from The Hill Toy Company and carries a plastic trident, 49p, from The American Party Store Daisy, 5, poses as a cat, £24 (add £3.50 for p&p), from Hopscotch (0181-674 9853). Styling by Jennifer Rüggeberg and Lisa Grainger. Photograph by Des Jenson





Glamorous fakes set the fur flying

ince the campaign of the Eighties which declared that it takes 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat and only one to wear it, fur has been distinctly un-PC in Britain. It may have appeared in 150 designers' autumn/winter collections, but in a recent Mori poll nine out of ten Britons said they would not wear it. Harrods was forced to close its fur department in 1990; exclusive furriers in Knightsbridge continue to be attacked; and even Imperial Cancer Research charity shops refuse to

Although real pelts have been flaunted alongside fake ones by British designers such as Hardy Amies and Tomasz Starzewski, and modelled for Fendi furriers by former anti-fur campaigner Naomi Campbell, fashion does not always translate onto the streets. We are a nation of animal lovers, and those who kill for beauty are high on the list of British hates.

ence the plethora of fakes in the shops — on collars and cuffs, on short bomber jackets, on flyaway, long-haired stoles and bear-like full-length coats.

It is not just the leopard-skin fakes that stalked the streets last year. This season there are monochrome sweaters with long-haired cuffs tipped in white; short-haired burgundy collars on brown suede ackets; mock mink on golden wool coats. The fur is short and fluffy, long and straggly, black and glossy, or even dyed in blues, magentas and golds.

Thanks to fabric-makers' abilities to create realistic fakes, it is possible to achieve the glamorous. ffect of previous eras, when it was the ultimate in chic to drape a furstole over your shoulders, to sweep into a hotel under a luxurious cloud of mink, or to nuzzle into a collar of rabbit fluff.

Italian women can wear what they like on the streets of Milan, but the British are leading the way in showing where we like our animais. And it isn't on our backs.

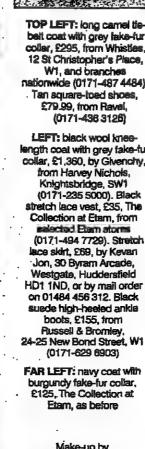
LISA GRAINGER











Make-up by Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774)



LEFT: carriero arvi: short-slowed, £245. Press & Bastyan (0171-636 1614) CENTRE chunky ribknit, £40, Warehouse, (0171-278 3491) RIGHT: classi iambewool, £49.50. The Scotchouse.







length coat with grey take-fur collar, £1,360, by Givenchy, stretch lace vest, £35, The (0171-494 7729). Stretch Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1

Styling by Amendip Uppel





TOP: chocolate stretch moleskin trousers, £85, and jacket with fake-fur collar, £125, by Glant, from Selfridges, W1, and John Lewis and House of Fraser stores nationwide (0171-255 3007)

ABOVE: grey, black and white striped wrap cardigan with tie belt and black take-fur trim, £59, from Kookal, branches nationwide (0171-937 4411)

LEFT: full-length ivory and gold brocade coat with blond fake-fur trim, £160, by Lipsy from selected Top Shop stores nationwide or mall order (0171-263 6206). Chocolate trousers, £34.99, from Jeffrey Rogers branches nationwide (01923 474400. Red suede highheeled mules, £110, from Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903)

Photographs by RICHARD BURNS

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Horticultural therapy: just what the doctor ordered

Green fingers, clear mind

ust what is it about gardens that makes gardeners - and garden visitors - feel so good? For the writer and historian Sir Roy Strong, tending his large formal garden at The Laskett on the Herefordshire/Wales border is a creative act. It's a tuning in to nature but also a controlling of nature," he says. "You can pleach and trim and change things and make great compositions. All that gives me unbelievable satisfaction. Gardens

باستهار منه در از بروه او مه<u>نده منه بر</u>ه بدر بدرد و به را در برده من در در در در در برد برده مهارد در شو

also keep you mobile and allow you to breathe good air. "And I'm a great believer in the fact that, if you have a problem, the subconscious takes over while you're doing something like digging. Then, when you go back to the computer afterwards, you find the problem has solved itself."

Lesley Talbot, director of the Thanet branch of the mental health charity Mind finds gardening unbeatable therapy for people with mental health problems. The peace and quiet of our garden helps them to somehow unburden themselves a little," she says.
"While they garden, they unwind

and sometimes things come to the fore that don't necessarily do so in an ordinary counselling session. People feel able to talk more freely. Bill Collings, general manager of forensic psychiatric services for Southampton Community Health NHS Trust, runs four greenhouses and an allotment for 50 people with

mental health problems. "Horticultural therapy has a tremendous amount to offer," he

Gardening helps people unwind from the rigours of everyday life and is a perfect therapy for the mind. Sue Corbett reports

says. "One person who had hardly spoken for two years started to come every day to work on our project. Now he has even appeared on television talking about it and how it saved him from staring at four walls."

هكذامن الإمل

Gardening as therapy for people with mental health problems is a growth area for the Somerset-based charity Horticultural Therapy (HT). Staff find that simple jobs such as seed-sowing are popular with mentally ill clients, and they encourage them by putting their names on labels in the seed trays so that they can follow the plants through to flowering.

something specific like moving dry plants out of the greenhouse to water them," says Richard Jones, demonstrator at the HT garden in Battersea Park, London, "Plants have to be tended - so it takes the focus away from that person and helps them to concentrate. Water-

ing is always therapeutic." Even being confined to a wheelchair need not mean the end of gardening pleasures. Fred Warden, horticultural therapy technician at Mary Mariborough Centre, Headington. Oxford, uses a wheelchair and says that when people see him. they realise there is hope. For just

"If someone can't settle, we'll do E25 a session (free on the NHS to some dients). Mr Warden advises people with severe physical disabilities on how to remain active in their gardens.

you really love your garden and it's your life and suddenly you can't do it, you get very depressed," he says.

"I give advice on garden design. as well as the right tools, equipment and techniques. I spend a couple of hours talking to people. Then we choose one of the 150-odd tools we keep here, and I get them to use it in our garden. Needless to say, everything around here gets pretty well pruned."

In its different way, Mr Warden's gardening work is every bit as satisfying as Sir Roy Strong's. Overloyed clients send him vegetables, and one woman who sur-mounted her difficulties with his help, went on to win a competition for the best garden in her town.

fred u

● A Garden for You: A Practical Guide to Tools, Equipment and Design for Older People and People with Disabilities by Fred Worden, is available from the Disabled Living Foundation, 380-84 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, price £5.95,

including pSp

Mary Marlborough Centre
Windmill Road, Headington, Onford
OX3 7LD (0)865 741155). Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerses BA1 3DW (01373 464782). Mind, 15-19 Broadway, London ElS 4BQ (0181-519 2132).

■ Plant grapevines in rich, well-manured soil, in a sunmy position, and erect posts and wires for subsequent training. Protect against the cold during this first winter.

M Shorten any long, gangling stems on shrub roses to reduce wind rock. Floribunda. roses that have finished flowering may be

If not completed earlier, just after flowering time, rambler roses can have flowered stems removed and new stems tied.

Take 12in hardwood cuttings of buddleis. cut-leaved or purple eiders, forsythia, willow, flowering current, gooseberries, and red.



white and blackcurrants. Set the cuttings two-thirds buried, in a oursery row and leave them there for the first year. All will grow quickly in the first year.

Make any late cuts of the lawn a little longer than usual, lin-2in, to strengthen the grass for winter. Choose a dry and preferably windy day, and make sure all clippings are boxed or raked off to minimise disease.

Place a cloche over a row of parsley to keep up supplies for Christmas. Tired plants may be revived with a gentle application of nitrogenous fertiliser.

Cut down the ferry stems of asparagus and clear away, removing any weeds

Plant out cloves of garlic on light, warm soils, 6in apart. For good cropping, it is important to establish the plants in the autumn. On cold, heavy soils, keep in pots in a cold greenhouse for planting out in spring.

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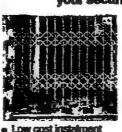
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Fired up about the ice maiden



Sedum spectabile 'Carmen', a stalwart of late-summer and autumn borders

hard and water is in short supply, nothing is more reliable than the good old ice. plant and the big succulent sedum. They are one of the stalwarts of late-summer and autumn borders.

For years there was just a handful of varieties to be found. More recently, murseries. German ones in particuiar, have been breeding and selecting new, improved varieties, not least because sedums are so drought-resistant:

The bench mark for sedums must surely be the old stager 'Herbstfreude' (Autumn Joy), whose strength and lasting quality still make it an invaluable garden plant. Succulent grey-green foliage arises in spring from a tight crown, blossoming into a mound of scaly leaves. The flower heads develop gradually on the end of each stem, grey as the leaves at first, then going from pink to brick red. All the while the

Summer is over, but new varieties of sedum can still give your borders a bronzed look, says Stephen Anderton

to a shallow dome of flower. Finally, the flowers turn brown, and the stems and flower heads stand through the winter, looking attractive in frost or bound into a deadly dome by spiders' webs.

Clumps of 'Herbstireude' will last for many years without division. Eventually, the stems become thinner, and will tend to flop outwards, indicating that it is time to carve up the clump in spring and replant it in much smaller pieces. Offsets of three to four buds quickly make a whole

strength and vigour with Sedum telephium and its forms. These do not have the clumpforming hybrid vigour of

head relaxes from a convex fist. 'Herbstfreude', and tend to make a group of upright stems rather than a luxurious dome of foliage. You need to group a few plants together to make a good patch. S. telephium moximum has a hint of bronze in its foliage, and can produce limey green flowers as late as October. The more tellingly

bronzed form, S. telephium

maximum 'Atropurpureum', has almost chocolatey foliage and flowers of muddled pink in late summer. Even the old ice plant itself, S. spectabile, is not such a good performer as the reliable Herostfreude'. Its foliage is icy pale-green, rather than grey-green, and its light-pink flowers open a couple of weeks

also has a variegated form

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

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with creamy yellow splashes on the leaves, which is constitutionally weak, though attractive as a curiosity. Such was the choice of sedums until the last few

years. Now all that is chang-

ing. There are some fine new names to look for. The first, S. telephium ruprechtii, is actually a subspecies and so not new, but it

has only recently risen in popularity. The leaves are a purplish grey and the intervening stems pink, but the flowers open to an attractive and unusual (in a big sedum) creamy yellow. It is rather lax in habit, and smaller than the general run of sedums. One of the best new bronzed

sedums is 'Matrona'. It is

purplish as the darkest forms of S. telephium, but what strength it has. It grows to at least 2ft, with large leaves of a dusky green, with a purple stain around the central vein. The stems are winey, the huge flower heads a dusky pink.

imilar, but less upright, is Joyce Hengrown to perfection at Bourton House, at Bourtonon-the-Hill in the Cotswolds.

There are some extravagant names floating around for the new hybrids - mostly stemming from the plummy foliage. Would you have chosen 'Gooseberry Fool' or 'Stewed Rhubarb Mountain?

There are some good pure whites appearing, too. 'Stardust' is a greenish white, on a plant about a foot high. Being a child of S. spectabile, is has that species' clear, pale-green foliage. I am growing 'Iceberg' for the first time this year, which again is short, but it has extraordinarily flat, large,

'Autumn Joy' covered with a November frost at Wolfson College Garden, Oxford. Its strength and lasting quality make it an invaluable garden plant

white heads of flower. Comparing closely the pink sedums in the garden, 'Herbstfreude' is by far the rosiest pink just now. 'Brilliant' is a much mauver pink, and 'Meteor' a darker, bluish

Recently, I read in New, Rare and Unusual Plants that a new variegated sedum will hit the scene in 1998. Called 'Frosty Morn', it has cream flowers. (The pink ones of the variegated S. spectabile never

Until this year I would have said sedums were certainly not susceptible to any particular pest or disease. Now I have changed my mind. Something has been girdling the stems, taking off the soft outer layer for a couple of inches, just at

the bottom. It could be vine weevils or snails, but even looking at night with a torch I have yet to catch any beastle in flagrante. The stems that have been girdled begin to shrivel and slowly die.

But the dying stems, in a desperate bid for life, have been making new plantlets and roots at the base of every leaf. Just by cutting up the stems and potting up the pieces. I could have a dozen new plants for every damaged stem. I could start a nursery.

FILE

Many sedums can be seen and purchased at the Beth Chatto Gardens, Elmstead Market. Colchester CO7 7DB (01206 822007). Open Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm until Friday, then Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm. The quarterly journal New, Rare and Unusuai Plants is available for £14 a year, or £3.50 for one issue, from Aquilegia Publishing, 2 Grange Close, Hartlepool TS26 0DU (01429 423165).



Christmas Gift Guide

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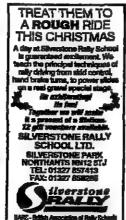
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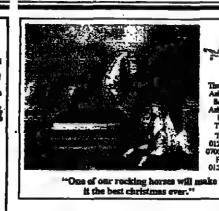
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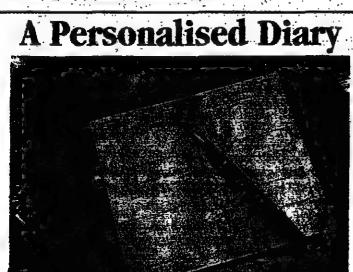


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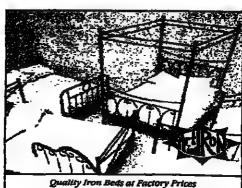
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gardening

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

plant found growing in a freshwater ditch near the sea in the Orkneys? It has 2-3ft flower stems with dease dusters of 1-2in white daisies with yellow centres at the top. The leaves are dark, shiny green, and a few clasp the stem too. — M. Rider. Chelmsford, Essex.

A I recognise this from your picture as Senecio smithii, a designer groundsel for midsummer. It is a terrific plant. In Britain, the further north you go the better it gets. It enjoys cool and wet conditions, and apparently grows wild in ditches in the Falklands, I grew it in ordinary. dryish border soil in Northumberland, but at the foot of a short north-facing wall. In the hotter, dryer parts of the south, it tends to grow shorter and never looks quite so healthy. It would look very sad in my dry Essex garden, but if you give it plenty of humus, it might grow well. You could try Microseris ringens. too. It is a shorter version of S. smithii, with similar clusters of yellow flowers,

and it is a little less per-turbed by life down south. My daughter-in-law is hooked on gardening, and last weekend my husband and I organised a compost heap for her. The grandchildren have a rabbit, and I wonder if the waste from the butch could go on the heap, or would it pose a health risk? — G. Staveley, Hull.

A Go ahead. Only be careful that you do not get so much carbon-rich material together in the

Can you identify a heap that it does not heat up crumple the hutch newspapers. The nitrogen-rich rabbit urine will speed things up, but some kitchen waste would help to keep it active. Why not get another rabbit or 20, to speed up compost

> A beech tree in my garden is getting too big and I would like to pollard it, both to control its size, and as a long-term source of firewood. The tree has a single trunk to off 4in, then many shoots, suggesting it has been pollarded many years ago. Would it survive pollard-ing again, when should it be done, and should I cut through the main trunk or through the old pollard shoots, ie, just below or just above the previous cuts? — E. Beaumont, Fareham, Hants.

A Pollarding — cutting all the branches back to the trunk to re-grow - is a winter job, before the sap begins to rise again. The more regularly it is done (10-15 years), the better a tree responds and survives. A pollarded tree which has been allowed to grow on again for 30-100 years can often be repollarded, but the shock can be fatal. Beech is not pleased to be pollarded, and cuts made across major limbs often do not respond at all. I would leave your beech alone, or replace it with a more cooperative species.

Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington St. London El 9XN. Advice is affered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures cannot

Caricatures

A hero for England on the field tells Jane Owen why he will not tackle backyard brambles



عكذامن رلإمل

Victor Ubogu has plans to host a few parties at the courtyard of his home in Bath (left and below) - but first there is the small matter of cleaning away the tangled overgrowth



Quiet place away from the scrum

ictor Ubogu, the opera-lov-ing England rugby squad player whose naked bottom has on more than one occasion wowed the crowds during Grand Slam matches, makes his staggering announcement nonchalandy as we slash our way to his garden through swathes of under-wear and clothes strewn across his

bedroom floor. "I am going to give up wine, omen and song," he says, Just like that. There are crates of good champagne upstairs. Women keep ringing on both his mobile phones. The Met will probably fold without his patronage. So has life with a yellow Lotus and a bottomless wallet too meaningless and

"It is for the sake of Oxfam's Fast Food Day on Friday, November 14. If I am playing on the Saturday I can't give up food like most people, but I will not take anyone out that night and I'll give the money I've saved to Oxfam," says the man who claims to

know only one flower - the white orchid: buy them to send to

Mr Ubogu is master of a small overgrown courtyard in central Bath, where he lives in an elegant threestorey stone house. He moved here in June from a cottage on Kew Green, west London, which gave him regular access to Kew Gardens, his favourite place to "chill out" between rugby and his business interests.

These include a London bar called Shoeless Joe's and a security firm, which he has since left to turn professional, return to the England rugby squad and focus on the 1999 World Cup. "I had to cut down on my interests - I am not getting any younger," says the 33-year-old with the roar of laughter that punctuates almost everything he says.

He leads the way out into the 25ft by 15ft courtyard, through some particularly vicious brambles, to reveal his plans. It is not an easy plot - shaded by a right-engle of high Bath stone buildings, and damp with little air movement but a good,

ME AND MY GARDEN: VICTOR UBOGU

slightly alkaline soil.
"I want to find out who owns the garden next door and buy it. It is even more overgrown than mine," he says. Then I'll pierce an arch through the wall. One garden would be for parties and the other, next door. would be to chill out in, with a bench for me to sit on and read."

he chill-out garden would be planted with soporific herbs and a voluptuous planting to give the effect of a rainforest. "I grew up in Nigeria, where it is lush, wild and beautiful," says the 16stone Oxford blue who has lived in Britain since 1977.

His Bath garden must have been presentable at one time, but bramble, ivy, bindweed and creeping buttercup have just about smothered a planting of silver prostrate Juniper squamata, cherry, honeysuckle, an

Acer palmatum, wisteria, clematis, hart's tongue and hellebore. Mr Ubogu frowns at his Bath stone paving and says he will replace it with terracotta tiles, build a barbecue in the centre of the small walled garden and make raised stone-edged beds around the perimeter.

Because I'm quite colourful," says Mr Ubogu with glorious understate-ment, "I like plenty of bright colours so I want lots of colourful plants in the raised beds."

Mr Ubogu's garden plans have a certain theatricality. "I like the overgrown look and I'll put in some strategically placed lighting -- subtle. low lighting for parties."

Most surprising is his plan for a stone grotto at the far end of his party garden. "I just want somewhere I can-hide away, especially during parties."

More roars of laughter. "And I want a statue of Belgium's Manneken Pis," he says with post-modernist irony.

Mr Ubogu says he has neither the knowledge nor the time to do the garden himself. "I haven't thought in depth about who should do the garden. I've got to sort out the inside first - I mean look at it."

There is a certain informality in Mr Ubogu's house — clothing scattered where it lands — and, in his bareboarded office, computers, electronic equipment and an awesome array of trainers sprout across the floor.

But, given the chance, who wouldn't swap a little house pride for a life of wine, women and opera? It was on a rugby tour of Australia that Mr Ubogu fell in love with opera. After being persuaded to see La Bohême at the Sydney Opera House, he was won over, and now he is a regular opera-goer, with purist taste. Quite a conversion for a rugby international.

For more information about the Oxfam Fast for Basic Rights call 0345 585783 or 0990 084225.

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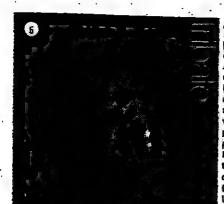


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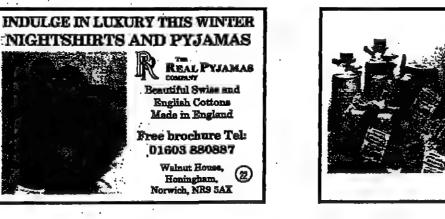
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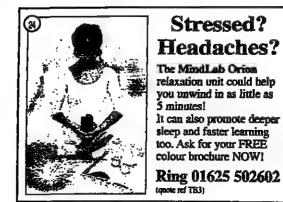
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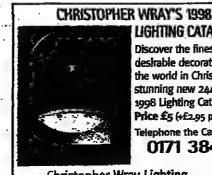


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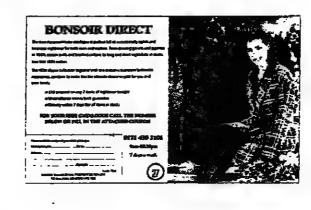
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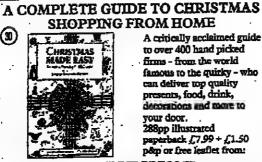
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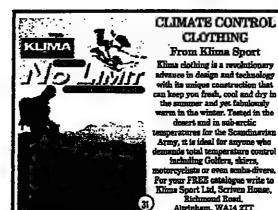
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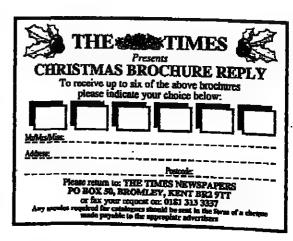


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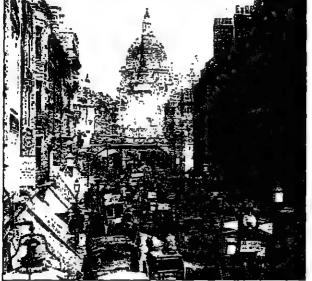
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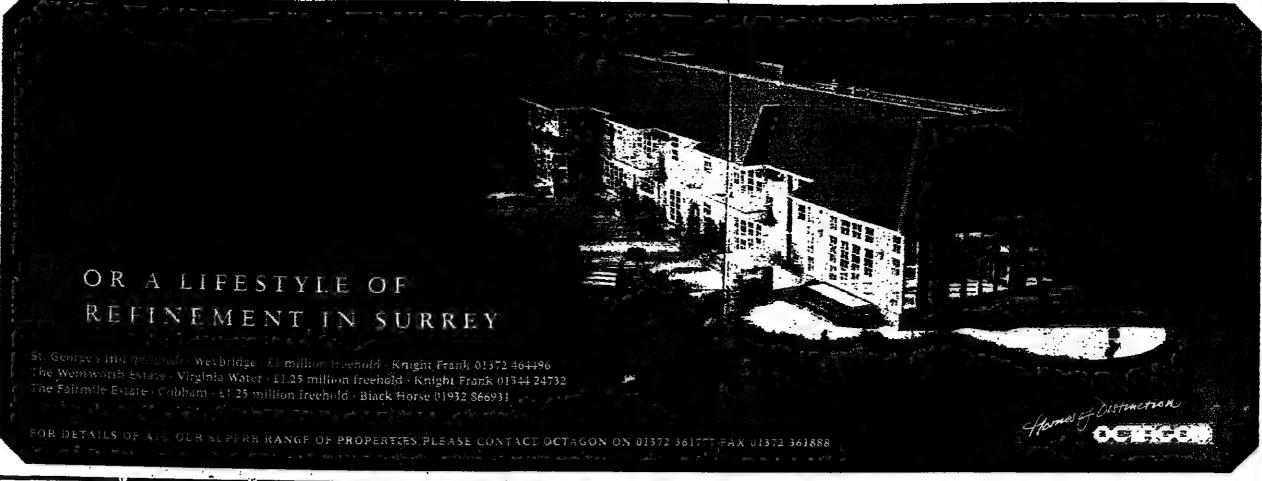
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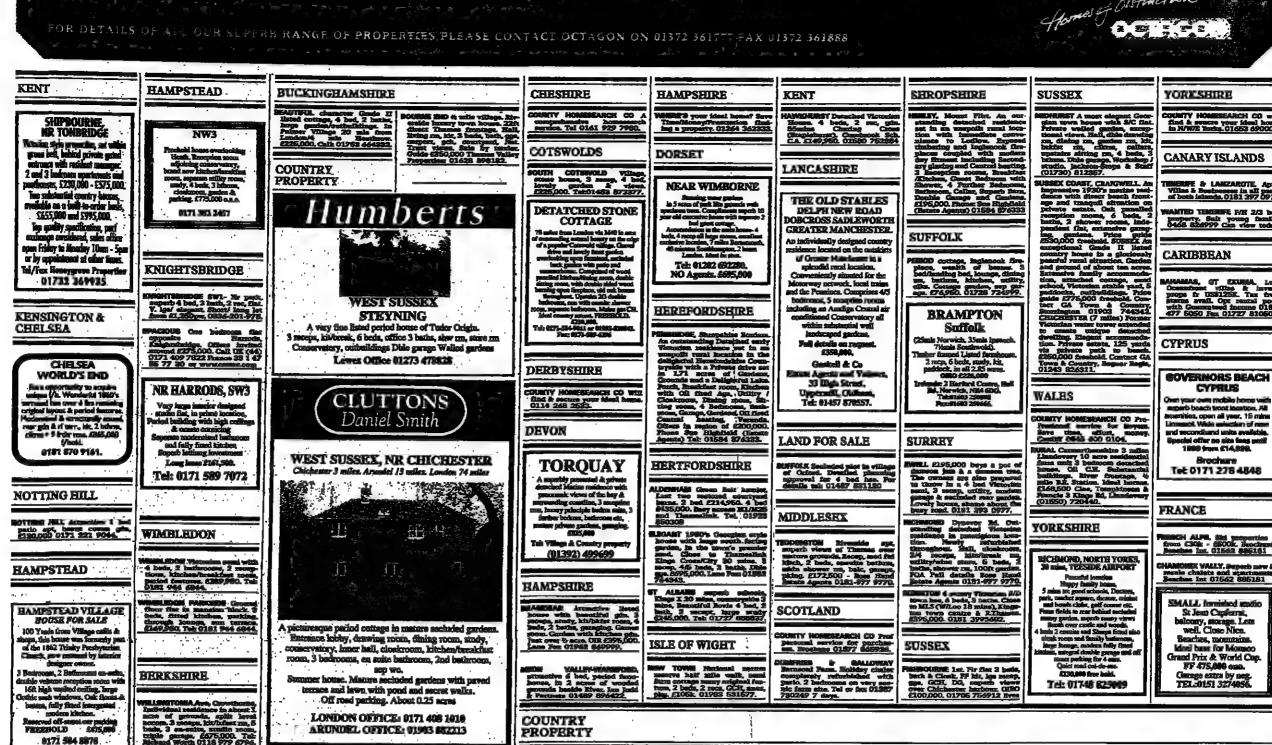
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LONDON

Walking along the W Thames-side streets of Dept-ford, it is hard to imagine that this area of south London once housed a bustling community of shipwrights and traders, and was the site of one of the most important dockyards in

It was here in the 16th century that Henry VIII cradled his navy at the royal dock and here that Elizabeth I came to inspect Francis Drake's ship, the Golden Hind, when she conferred a knighthood on the captain.

She also granted the East India Company its first charter in 1000 and, a year later, the company fitted out its first four ships at Deptiord, using the profits to buy a site next to the royal dock. It was in this yard that its trading ships were repaired and provisioned for their

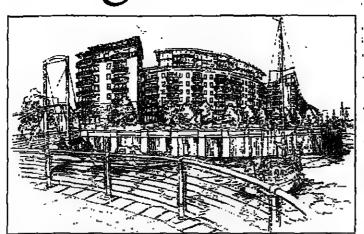
long journey east.

Then, as the wooden fighting ships grew bigger and heavier, the navy's builders needed a wider river and the royal yard moved down river, first to Woolwich and then to Chatham, while the East India Company finally moved away from the docks in 1782.

More than 200 years later. Deptford is coming up in the world again. An extension of the Docklands Light Railway is due to open shortly after the millennium, providing easy access to the City, and the area's Georgian sea captain's houses are being restored as are the many high-quality period buildings on the high street, prompting a lot of interest from buyers.

Building work is also about to start on the site of the old dockyard. which will eventually provide 650 flats and houses. The centrepiece of the development by Fairview New Homes is a seven-storey block of designer luxury flats with river

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New development at Deptford Creek, once the site of shipbuilders

views, complete with glass-walled

penthouses.
But before the builders move in. team of archaeologists has been allowed to excavate the site, and has unearthed the remains of the old East India Company dockyard. So far, two timber slipways have been revealed along with a river-side wall. They are built of reused ships' timbers, and the team believes it should be possible to discover a great deal about how ships were built in the 17th and 18th

Elsewhere, on the far side of the site, the team has discovered a complex of almshouses built for seamen's widows during the 16th to 18th centuries. The patterned tile floors are still intact and many of the former inhabitants' possessions including sewing needles and pottery - have been found scattered nearby.

The widows were employed to mend sails or make clothes, it seems, and it is an interesting thought that the last time anybody looked at those needles, the playwright Christopher Marlowe was getting into deep trouble around the corner: he was assassinated in a Deption tavern.

The archaeologists say they are surprised by the quality and extent of the find, partly because, until it was demolished recently, the site was under the massive bulk of Deptford power station, the world's first, built in 1889 by Sebastian de

The team moves out next month and building work will start soon after, with the phased development completed by 2002.

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An anchor (left) discovered during the dig at the old East India Company dockyard in Deptford recalled the days when the docks were home to tea clippers (above)

GLOUCESTER -

R epossessions usually come in the form of run-down flats in out-of-the-way parts of big cities, but a Gloucestershire estate agent is soon to launch Britain's first repossessed Roman villa on the

The villa takes up most of the three-quarter acre garden of a cottage in the village of Wordey. in 1980 Paul Cory, the then owner, was digging a hole for a new fence post when he found a piece of mosaic floor. He reported his find to a group of local enthusiasts and for the next few years they carried out some small diggings in the garden. Then the professionals moved in and discovered the remains of an entire villa.

Most of the villa has yet to be

excavated, but the work was forced

to a premature halt when the house

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was repossessed earlier this year. During the summer, part of the dig became overgrown.

Although recognised as an important archaeological site, the villa is not protected by English Heritage. When the house is eventually

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TIM ESHARE UK

the new owners shutting their doors to the researchers and burying the remains under a new lawn. The house, known locally as Thatched Cottage, dates from the 14th century and is believed to have

been built from stone taken from

the villa. It was put on the market

price of £220,000, but was repos-sessed before a buyer could be found. Since then it has been at the centre of a legal dispute. "We did have a buyer earlier this

in spring this year through Humberts' Tetbury office at an asking

year, but it fell through because of the problems at the time. Hopefully it will soon be resolved," says

ccording to English Heritage, there are an estimated 2,600 archaeological digs in Britain, ranging from small local projects to large sites of national importance. The Thatched Cottage is not the only house with archaeologists at the bottom of the garden, but not all householders would choose to open their garden to researchers. The chances are you will not be

forced to allow an army of trowelwaving students on to your land, but there may be problems if you decide you want an ornamental pond, or to put an extension on the property. If English Heritage thought the site sufficiently important, you could be refused planning

astar

In some cases, planning consent is given on condition that the archaeologists are allowed in first, but the homeowner may be expected to pay for the cost of the dig. Once a site has been excavated and the findings documented, the area can then be back-filled and used for whatever purpose the homeowner intends. This is what is happening

on the Deptford site. However, new buildings some times have to be built on piles rather than conventional foundations so as to minimise the damage to the remains below, putting up

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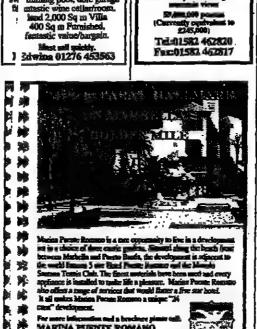
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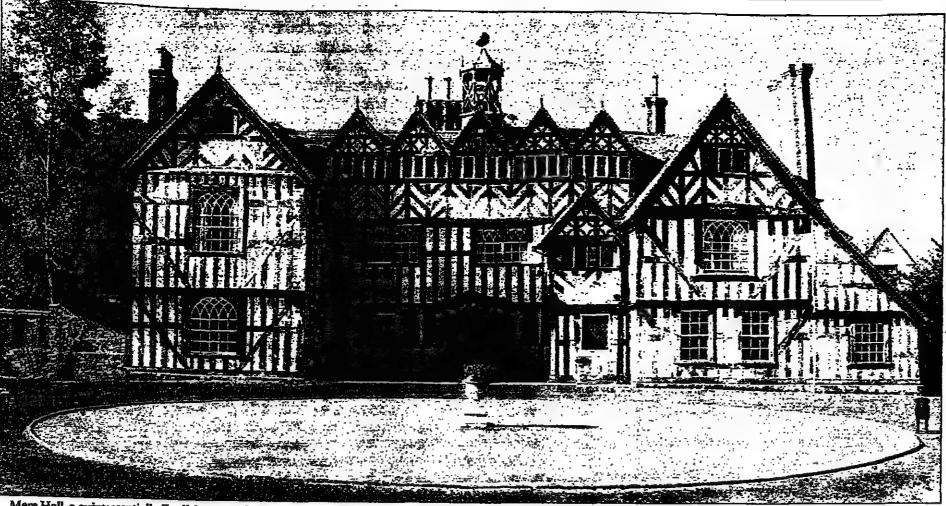
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Mere Hall, a quintessentially English country house dating from the 16th century, is in 85 acres and has five reception rooms, six principal bedrooms and an asking price of £1.5 million

The old hall with a star billing

Mere Hall, setting for Shadowlands and inspiration for Grey Gables

in The Archers, is for sale

he wardrobes are not for sale. And on my visit to Mere Hali did not, in fact, crawl inside one to see if I might find myself swept behind the coats into a mysterious wood lit by a solitary lamppost. I suppose it would have been doubtful; the hall's connection to Namia is not exactly direct - four years ago the film crew of Shadow lands swept down on it for a strode down the drive impersonating C.S. Lewis. But the hall is rather a magical place. none the less.

It is little wonder that Sir Richard Attenborough chose the house as the epitome of an English exertor. Driving through the suburbs of Britain one sees enough plumb-straight modern "half-timbering" to put you off the look for life, but Mere Hall, near Droitwich in Worcestershire, is listed Grade I and is one of the finest houses of its kind in the country. It is a reminder of the eccentric beauty of this

quintessentially. English style. You can see the house as soon as you turn down the drive; once its face was obscured by a stand of elms, but Dutch elm disease killed them off and now limes and poplars are slowly growing to replace them. The house is striking, black and white against the green of the Worcestershire



Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger in Shadowlands, shot at Mere Hall

countryside. Its interior, too, has a film-set quality, but no set designer had laid a hand on the dark Elizabethan panelling that lines many of the ground-floor rooms.

When we arrived there was no one, at first, to meet us: but the great wooden front door was open, and inside there was a fire blazing in the hearth and plate of biscuits set out on the table. A deer's head, mounted on the panelling above the fireplace, cast a baleful eye on us - but not so malevolent, perhaps, as those of the fine dragons carved into the wood.

This fire surround is one of several on the ground: the best is in the dining room, a voluptuous concoction decorated with winding vines and barebreasted caryatids; in the sitting room, mythical Green Men peer out at the visitor.

ntil a few years ago, many of the visitors were Archers fans. because the Grey Gables country house hotel was modelled on Mere Hall. That the house has so many original features is in part because it remained in the

same family for more than 600 years. The present owners, the Stearns, have loved and cared for it for 16 years, and are only the third owners. From its earliest incarnation in 1337 (a beam with this date carved into it can just be made out over the front door, but may have been added at a later date since the house's face is clearly loth century) it belonged to the Bearcrofts, who built it and owned all the land around. A portrait of the last Colonel Bearcroft hangs in the hall; the Jack Russell at his feet is buried in the garden. That the

due to this continuity, though when the Stearns bought it the house had fallen into disrepair and needed restoration. dward and Anits Stearn have twin

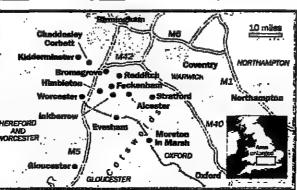
nain rooms of the house are in

such good shape is probably

daughters who have grown and gone, which is why they are selling - with its five reception rooms, six principal bedrooms, a separate wing with three more bedrooms and a maze of attic rooms - and 85 acres of land, much of it woodland; plus tennis courts, a pool, stabling and formal gardens, with the lake that gives the house its name. There is potential for planning

permission to build a lodge.

Despite its size it feels a liveable house: the bedrooms, with their Georgian panelling, are comfortable rather than grand. The kitchen/breakfast room - where sections of the old wattle-and-daub walling have been exposed and covered with glass - is heated by an enormous red Aga, and is the kind of room you never want to leave. Hooks for hanging hams protrude from the exposed beams. Nothing makes quite a straight line. At the top of the house, where the attic rooms create



flexible working arrangements, able to spend longer out of the South East or work from home, are being seduced by the relative value for money they can find in the area.

Jackson-Stops & Staff believes that Mere Hall (see above), on the market at EL5 million. would have seen a guide price of £2 million-plus if it had been in Gloucestershire, attracting a wider wealthy contingent from London and the Home Counties. Given the West Midlands location, however, he believes that interest in a Grade I property like this is likely to come either from the well-heeled burghers of

for a gem.
Further down the scale, a

mid-range country house with five to seven bedrooms and two to 15 acres of land will sell in the West Midlands for £300,000 to £600,000. A threebedroom cottage with a pretty garden (prime weekending material), in a popular spot such as Feckenham, Inkberrow, Himbleton or the area around Chaddesley Corbett,

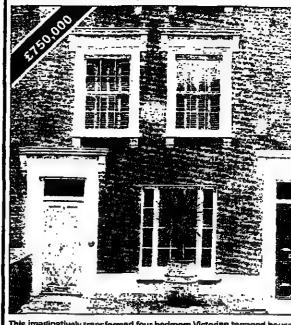
But agents emphasise that the regional market, while strong, is not speculative: there is keen interest in quality, well-maintained propernes, but not at any price. Nor is there much sign of a renovation renaissance: 10day's buyers would rather pay well for mod cons and everything in full working order than rebuild a ruined bargain.

HOME SWAP

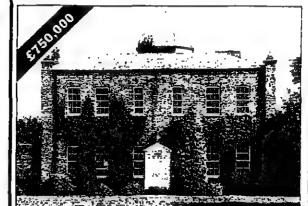
A shortege of good houses for sale in Fulham, west London, fuelled price gains of up to 20 per cent in the first half of this year. With more property on the market, City buyers are no longer prepared to pay over the odds to secure the right house and prices have stabilised. The smartest address on the Peterborough estate will set you back up to £900,000 for a five-bedroom Victorian terraced house. Around Hurlingham and Bishops Park, large semi-detached Edwardian houses fetch from £500,000 to £1.25 million.

Hot spots in Suffolk include the river Stour valley-Constable country around East Berghoit, Higham and Dedham, just over the border in Essex. Timber-framed medieval houses with up to six bedrooms from £300,000 to £500,000 are selling fast to London buyers who commute from Colchester to Liverpool Street in 50 minutes. Georgian muntry houses with up to len acres cost from £500,000 to £1 milh estate agent Savils.

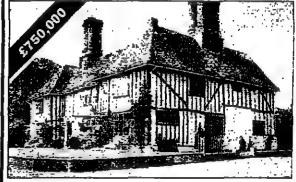
There is a distinct lack of froth on the property market in Cheshire. However, period country houses in Manchester's former stockbroker belt, around Alderley Edge, Knutsford and Prestbury, costing from £600,000 to £1.25 million, continue to attract successful business people and prices have usen 10 per cent this year. In the Peckforton Hills, around Tarporley, a six-bedroom country house in 10 acres can be still had from £450,000, says Strutt & Pa



n Rumbold Road, Fulham, west London-once the home of actor Kenneth Moore and still owned by his widow Angela Douglas and Bill Bryden—Is for sele at £750,000. It has a 50ft walled garden and two



Grade II* listed Georgian house in 13 acres of garden and paddocks in an attractive rural location, bordering the Trent and Mersey Canal,



For the same price you could buy Preston Hell, a sh-bedroom Grade II listed Elizabethan menor house in 11 acres of walled gardens and paddocks, overlooking undulating countryside, near Lavenham, Suffolk, it comes with stabling, tack room, barn/garaging, heated ling pool and aummerhouse (Saville, 01473 226191).

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FAMOUS TIMBERS

TERESA GORMAN, Conservative MP for Billericay, lives in a Grade II listed part-Tudor farmhouse. (right) in Orsett, Essex. The semi-derelict 15thcentury house was bought for £170,000, and more than £130,000 has been spent on the property.



RUFFORD Old Hall, Rufford, Lancashire (left), a half-timbered

manor house built in

1420, was bequeathed

by the First Baron

Hesketh to the National Trust in 1936.

Today only the main

hall survives in its

original form but it is

said that Shakespeare

once performed there.



WILL CARLING, the former England rugby captain, lives with his partner, Ali Cockayne and her son in a timber-framed, cottagestyle country house (right) in Dorney. Buckinghamshire. The property, valued at £500,000, has five bedrooms and a large

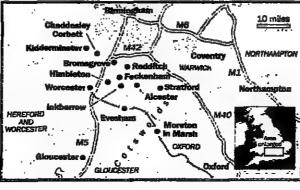


MARKET COMMENT

THE WEST MIDLANDS market is a broad regional one, stretching from Worces-ter and the M5 to Stratfordupon-Avon and the M40 in the east, and from the M42 south towards the Cotswolds. But the dominant players

here are the indigenous population and Birmingham-based business people; the area has enjoyed strong economic growth recently, attracting a flow of professionals relocating from the South East. With rail journeys from London to Worcester taking between three and four hours, the area remains largely beyond the pale for London commuters and the Cotswold/Gloucestershire weekend-cottage brigade (though proximity to the Cotswold line linking Paddington to Worcester and Hereford is an undoubted attraction for buyers).

. As a consequence, it has not seen the development of the "honeypot" villages (Broadway, Bourton-on-the-Water, the Slaughters) that pull such crowds of hopeful purchasers and tourists in the Cotswolds. and this makes for a price differential of about 15 per cent, says Kevin Mason of the estate agents Knight Frank. But he adds that an increasing number of buyers with more



Lower prices apply across the board: Peter Britton of

Birmingham or from special-ist purchasers around the country who are on the hunt

could be picked up for £150,000 to £210,000.

FAITH GLASGOW

Above: details from the hall's decoration

Left: the panelled dining room also has a superb

carved fire surround.

the illusion of an Elizabethan

"long gallery" when viewed

from the outside (Nikolaus

Pevsner thought this a very

clever trick), there is a warren

of storage rooms, some too low

Upstairs, too, is the mechanism for the striking clock

built by John Moore and Sons

of Clerkenwell in the 19th

century which still chimes the

hour from a cupola above the

more than a century in a low

ceilinged room scented with

plaster and wood, the beauti-

ful clock, as much as anything

in the house, seems a link to a

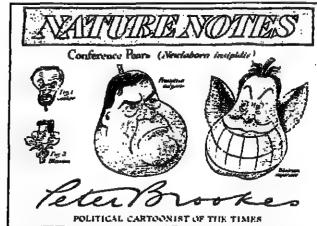
vanished and shadowy past.

Agents: Jackson-Stops and Staff (01386 840234) and Quantrills (0121-354 9229).

ERICA WAGNER

to stand up in.

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In 1996, Political Cartoonist of the Year Peter Brookes launched a series of cartoons in The Times on Saturdays called Nature Notes - brilliantly executed drawings of both domestic MPs and international leaders as members of a weind and wonderful world. A menagerie in a vegetable patch, the world of Nature Notes is a place where the great and the good can and do become the small and the furry: Bosis Yelsin as a Museum (Jame) duck; Ian Posislay as an a Muscovy (lame) duck; Ian Paisley as an Orange-utan ('Devours all greenery'); and Baroness Thatcher as a rabid old bat (its venom is of European origin, and any bite can prove gravely injurious to grey-haired, bespectacled gentlemen'). Anything is possible - John Prescott ran eyen become a Great Til. can even become a Great Tit.

Nature Notes brings together more than 50 of the first Nature Notes carticons to appear in The Times. Covering the period from February 1996 to June 1997, just after Labour's historic landstide victory in the General Election, each cartoon takes as its theme a news story of the time — among them Tory splits, sleaze and Euro-bickering; Labour's path to power. BSE, Budgets and Britannia, as well as crime and royally.

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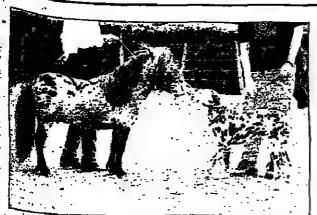
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Some owners treat miniatures like dogs, says the RSPCA

'It's not a glorified lawnmower'

ike a beautiful race-

horse seen through

the wrong end of a

telescope" stocky table with a leg on each

corner". "So cute they make

you go weak at the knees" or

an abomination — a horse

reduced to the size of a

Miniature horses, bred over

the years to be small, cute and

petite, polarise opinion in the

But one thing is certain -

little horses are big business. The smaller they come, the bigger the price. To be classed

as miniature, they have to be

34in high or less, and they

don't come any tinier than at the toyhorse stud run by Tikki

Adorian, who is staging the

biggest British auction of min-

the British Ministure Horse

Society, which she founded in

1992 with one member. Now

the BMHS has 1,500 horses on

its books. She has bred, and

still owns, the timiest horse in

the world: toyhorse Countess

Natushka. *2*7in high and

Today, hundreds of people

are expected to see Tushic and

other miniatures at her stud

farm at Howick, near

Billingshurst. West Sussex.

and somewill be prepared to

pay from £250 to several

thousand pounds to owe one.

However, anybody wanting to

Mrs Adorian is chairman of

world of horse-lovers.

labrador".

latures today.

known as Tushie.

Miniature horses may be cute, but it's feared some people want them for the

wrong reasons, says Jack Crossley

tempt Mrs Adorian to part with Tushie would have pay about £10,000.

Lin Whitehouse, from Essex, is prepared to spend £3,000. "I bought two toy horses six years ago, thinking they would be fun — and useful to mow the lawn," she says. But owning miniature horses turned out to be contagious and now I can't wait to get to the auction again."

As well as being "cute" and "a lovely mover", a goodquality miniature Shetland will have a short, strong back and powerful hind legs and hocks (knees - where the propulsion comes from). But there are those who fear that the fashion for breeding "fine"

IF YOU intend to buy a miniature it is worth considering the advice in the guidelines for first-time buyers, printed in the Toyhorse auction catalogue

Miniatures should be treated exactly the same as other equines. They need ample nourishment from

grassland between April

miniatures might be going too far, sacrificing strength for beauty. When Mrs Adorian's 30in Count Cappuccino became this year's supreme champion, judge Anthony Thomas Chambers told me: "I was looking for beauty and strength, perhaps 50-50. Breeders who go for fineness

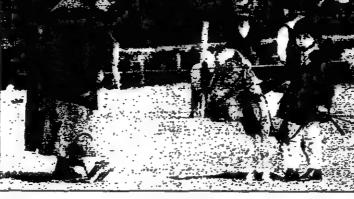
often reduce strength."

Mr Chambers's concern is echoed by the RSPCA, which is worried that breeding from a small gene pool may cause genetic disorders.

Some people wish to obtain miniature horses because they can have them in the house or the car and treat them in a manner more appropriate for a dog." says Mr Chambers.

FACT FILE

and November. When stabled, feed them on quality hay, coarse horse-mix or a mixture of soaked sugar beet and crushed oats in very small amounts -- I-3lb per feed depending on age and size.



There is a also greater risk of genetic disorders resulting from breeding from a smaller gene pool. The relationship a person will have with a miniature horse is likely to be different from that normally established between owners

recommended every eight weeks and hooves need regular paring.

At Howick, weaulings are generally stabled at night but nearly all other stock is wintered in sheltered pastures. Should a young colt become rather a handful, it may well benefit from

ACCESSORIES

and horses because of their size, and the RSPCA believes that this may lead to welfare problems for the animals."

Lucy Wykeham, from the International League for the Protection of Horses, says: "I think you run into congenital problems if you are miniaturising something all the time. Some miniatures being bred now are about the size of a labrador and it is getting ridiculous.

The ILPH asks people not to buy miniatures as pets. Many are bred for showing, perhaps that is where their future lies — but not as a glorified lawnmower. Any horse is a commitment — fees can add up to £1,500 a year." But Mrs Adorian says the

costs are different for every owner: "El,500 a year is nonsense; £300 is nearer the mark." she says.

Above Tikki

Adorian with

Unlike the RSPCA, she

and used to

pull carriages

Left Rebecca

Lewis, 6, puts

her horse

Peanur's

Yearling. through its

says toyhorses

her prize

"As for concerns about genetic disorders, that's scaremongering. We have a 24-hour helpline and people may ring us up with any problem. None has been linked to genetic disorders." Should children ride them?

Never, say some. Only child-ren below four stone, say others. A strong, fit miniature will enjoy carrying up to seven stone, says Mrs Adorian. Should they pull people in carriages? Not desirable, say some. Again, Mrs Adorian disagrees - and is holding a two-day driving school on November 11 and 18.

A VET WRITES

Guy Fawkes is almost upon us and, like thousands of pet owners, I have to look forward to a fraught week - or more. My two cats retire to one of the bedrooms when the bangers start but Bessie, my Cocker spaniel, is terrified. She cowers undergeath the settee, trembles and cannot settle. My ver says he can give me tranquillisers for her if I insist but doesn't think this solves anything. What should I do?

It isn't reasonable to

A keep Bessie tranquillised for a week, and tranquillisers can't be switched on and off as and when the bangers stopand start. Close the curtains at dusk. Switch the radio or TV on to high volume to provide a counter-noise. Give Bessie a bigger supper than normal. A full stomach is a wonderful sedative. Keep calm yourself - dogs respond to their owner's reactions. When she goes out just before bedtime, keep her on the lead and make sure her collar is tight enough --dogs slip out of loose collars. And tell Bessie she's a disgrace to gundogs. Bangs from gunshots are part of their lives. Excitement is acceptable, but terror - never.

My cat Sooky keeps getting tapeworms although I worm her every three months. The vet says she will keep getting worms so long as she has fleas. I don't understand the con-

A The common tapeworm of cats, Dipylidium, has a two-stage lifecycle. The adult-worms live in cats but the juvenile form is a cyst within a flea. The melon-seed-shaped wriggly segments you see around Sooky's rear end are

ripe segments, full of 'eggs detached from the tail of the tapeworm. They dry up, the eggs are shed, and when a flea eats an egg, a tapeworm cyst develops in the flea. Then Sooky swallows this infected flea and the next generation of Dipylidium grows in her in-testine. Which is why flea

control is essential. A different tapeworm infects hunting cats — one of the Taenia species. The cyst stage occurs in a shrew or vote which has swallowed tapeworm eggs passed by a cat. When this infected shrew is caught and eaten by the cat, a

Teania tapeworm develops. Carry on with the worming, but remember that tapeworms don't cause ill-health in cars.

What's the best bedding Q for a tortoise hiberoation box? Last year we used hay for Speedy, our spur-thighed tortoise, and he woke, fit as a fiddle, last spring. But I've been told that hay can be dangerous. Is this true - and if so, why?

A Hay and damp straw may develop mould fungi of the Aspergillus group, which can cause respiratory infections in tortoises as well as in man, caule and birds. Less "natural" materials, such as shredded paper, polystyrene granules or wood wool. are much safer. A couple of ceiling tiles beneath Speedy's box will stop the cold striking from below and you should try to keep his winter quarters a few degrees above freezing but below 9C.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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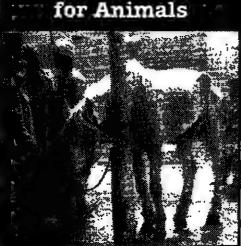
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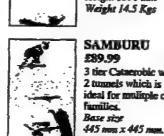
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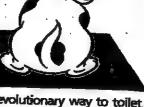
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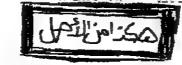
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Paradise for little boys is a collection of farm machinery, a workshop filled with vicious tools and a pocket full of chocolates

r Probably-better-off-without-him-in-the-long-run having apparently decided once and for all that nothing I can offer could possibly live up to the allure of his leaky septic tank, I went off in a sulk to Wiltshire, to visit Charles-who-farms. There is nothing Charles likes better than a sad girl, and he was immediately able to shed valuable light on the reasons for my tragic history of romantic reverses. "Ir's yer cooking," he said. "It's norrible. Full of garlic and what are those awful

little black things? Olives. Pfthough. Disgusting. Have some more cabbage. So we are up our cabbage (delicious) and went off for a stroll with the dogs in the late autumn sunshine, across his fields of maize and Jerusalem artichokes and newly planted rape. The whole scene was too ludicrously pretty for words --the brilliant blue sky, the hedges full of sloes and blackberries and rosehips and Old Man's beard, the black figures of the dogs, galloping ahead of us, working the spinneys and putting up pheasants and partridges, to half-hearted roars of disapproval from Charles.

"Aren't they beautiful," he said dreamily, as the affronted birds strutted away A farmer is a boy's best friend

after next - Pow! Pow! Pow!"

"Pow! Pow!" echoed Alexander, who adores Charles - and you can just see why. For a start, he has a collection of farm machinery to die for — disc harrows and balers and combines and tractors, on which Alexander is allowed to ride for hours at a stretch (the notion that one could ever have had enough of fiddling with the controls of a John Deere being as alien to Charles as it is to my son). Also, he has a workshop full of vicious bandsaws that could cut a little boy right down the middle in less time than it takes to say ouch. These we gaze at for more hours, with frissons of pleasurable horror, until I start whining to be taken home.

Then there are Charles's pockets, full of the most amazing treasures: cartridges and nails and, on this occasion, a Roman coin, millions and millions of years old, from the days before Thomas the Tank Engine roamed the earth - the pocket

Roman boy who had dropped it in Charles's field on his way to the toy shop to

But actually, I sus-Alexander likes best of all about Charles is his short way with me. Gosh, it's getting awfully chilly, I say, in my usual bossy fashion. Perhaps we'd better go in now. That's enough

playing on the combine, darling: I expect Charles has got other things to do. Sit down. No of course you can't have any pudding, you haven't eaten up your firsts. No more sweeties, Alexander. I

"Mmm," says Charles, paying no more attention to me than if I were a

LIFE AND SOUL



them meself. Ah, I seem to have found some more chocolate buttons in this pocket..." It is a wonderfully effective method of dealing with me, and Alexander seems to have

adopted it as his very own.

I have been thinking for quite some time that my disciplinary techniques were due for a spot of reviewing. Up until

gnat, buzzing in his ear. Lers walk round to the other telly between Lord Hailsham and his Jack Russell, "I am," said the rubicund duckpond and see if peer to his beady-eyed, sceptical little dog, bigger and stronger and cleverer we can find some newts, shall we? What do you think happens if you press This worked very well all the time I

was bigger and stronger and cleverer than my offspring. But lately I have noticed the balance of power sort of pudding would you like? Ice cream and toffee sauce. perhaps? beginning to shift. He is a slender child, Never mind about but very solid, and perfectly capable of bringing me down with a low tackle, as those carrots. Nasty he discovered just the other week. Also, he has quite suddenly become extremely argumentative and makes little attempt to conceal the fact that he thinks I am a

> We had a little difference of opinion on our return home from Charles's. Bedtime, I said, as we got out of the car. It is late. Not yet, said the child, he had urgent business to attend to. So attend to it in the

morning. I said, grasping him by the collar and grappling him, with consider-able difficulty, up the stairs and into his pyjamas. Then I turned the light off, shut the door, and went back downstairs, securing the stairgate behind me. As I reached the bottom step, I heard the click of him turning the light back on again.

I poured myself a glass of something, and was just sitting down for a minute before tackling the next bit of the Great Rolling List (clean shoes, iron school trousers, remember to put homework in bag) when the drawing-room door halfopened, with a ghastly creak (this kind of horror-movie sound effect is a speciality of the fittings in our house).

"Who is it?" I quavered.
"It's us," said Alexander, trotting in, grasping his disgusting old panda by the leg and looking every inch the adorable innocent, with his tousled gold curls and his little winceyette pyjamas with the soldiers printed all over them.

Dear God, I said. But how did you get out? I closed the stairgate most

particularly,
"I know," said my little lamb, "But I
"I know," said my little lamb, "But I shot it off, the way Charles showed me. Pow! Pow! Pow!"



Cast the Net to catch a friend

After fruitless years of searching for an old family friend,

Jonathan Mirsky turned to his PC and found him via the Internet

coray for Yahoo! More particularly, hooray for Yahoo People Search. You may think that the World Wide Web is for porn-seekers and scrutineers of bulletin boards. specialising in racing pigeons. But if, like me, you had been searching for someone for almost 50 years and found them in five seconds via Yahoo, spoke to them, and then met them, Yahoo becomes a friend for life.

lanes Dog & Catalog

A STATE OF THE STA

In 1935, when I was two, my. parents went to China, where my father was to be a visiting professor at the Peking Union Medical College. They took my seven-year-old sister but left me in California with Marie, a 16-year-old German girl who my father taught to read and write, and Ernst, a 25-year-old cabinet-maker, who had been born in Germany but came to America as a small child.
When my parents returned months

later I didn't recognise them, spoke only German, and soon developed the stammer which paralysed me into my teens. We all returned to New York, with Marie, who got married in about 1939, and Ernst, who set up a cabinet-making shop down the street and remained a near-father to my sister and me until he got married in 1951 and moved out of our lives. Over the years, whenever my sister or I went to another city, we looked in the telephone book for Ernst and would report to the other that, yet again, we hadn't found him. Eventually, when we realised he must be a very old man and probably dead, we gave up the search and memories of Ernst

faded. There were no photographs. Enter Yahoo Yahoo is a search engine" on the Web, a tool for finding your way around this gigantic network. Exploring it soon after it was installed last spring, 1 discovered People Search. I figured why not: what the hell ... I typed in Ernsrs

Californian town, with address and phone number (Yahoo must contain every telephone number in the Uni-

It was 2am in California, but after 45 years who could wait? I rang. A voice, "Hello. Is that Ernst who used to be a friend of the Mirskys?" "Yes." "Ernst! This is Jonathan." "Well. Jonathan. I certainly wasn't expecting to hear from you. Where are you?" "Hong Kong." "Really... then this must be a long-distance call." Well, yes Ernst, I found you in my computer." "Ah, computers. I hear they're wonderful things. Well, I just got a new passport. I think I'll come there next week." "Ernst, next week we're going to be handed over to China and I'm pretty busy. How about in November, for my 65th birthday? That's good, I'll come then; 65, well well. I'm 89. See you

soon." And so on. It was now 5am in New York. But after 45 years ... I rang my sister. "Grunt." "Reba, it's me. Amazing news. If you could talk to anyone in the world right now, who would you call?" "Ernst, of course." "Here's his number. He's waiting to hear from you." She called him and, like me, learnt that Ernst - always a matterof-fact sort of man - had eaten oatmeal for breakfast that day, had a haircut, and a tuna-salad sandwich

One day his daughter called to say he had fallen over, broken his hip and was in hospital. Soon she told me he had pneumonia and perhaps had had a stroke. Hospitals often kill the old. I flew to California. Ernst had insisted on meeting me in his daughter's house, and there he was, entire name and guessed California. asleep. I gazed down on him, lying on Zap! There he was, in a small his side in all his clothes, including



They trusted me. There was always a place for me at supper. And we took all our summer holidays together'

his shoes, and with an enormous white walrus moustache instead of the neat little Errol Flynn number 1 dimly recalled.

When he woke up we spent two days talking. He had photographs of the Mirsky family starting in 1935. How had this young cabinetmaker from California become such a close friend of my biochemist father

and harpsichordist mother that they entrusted me to him, not only while they were in Peking but as a second

father for the next ten years? By the time he was 16, Ernst was a union-qualified carpenter: soon he was building sets in Hollywood for Laurel and Hardy, the laugh-hits of the late-1920s. "We built entire houses of balsa wood, which collapsed on the actors in earthquakes that we made happen on specially constructed vibrating platforms. We made locomotives which crashed into other locomotives."

Then something — unexplained — "really terrible" happened to Ernst. "I left home and became a hobo, riding the rails for two years all over the West. I learnt where to hop off trains before the railway police caught you, which towns had a friendly family, who would give a hobo a handout of pie or chicken and maybe a dollar."

After two years on the rails Ernst came to New York with three dollars in his pocket. The first day I passed a place where they were setting up a Jewish charity bazaar and there was a Mrs Solomon, who gave me a job building cabinets and tables — and introduced me to your aunt Bashka the sculptress, who needed some shelves. That's how I met your mother."

My parents asked Ernst to build them some furniture and introduced him to friends and relations who needed similar work. "In those days rich people had expensive French furniture they wanted copied. I'd knock it apart, build a replica, cast and reproduce the hardware. I'd write 'original' on the bottom of the

And Ernst entered my family. They trusted me. It began with my

work and my attitude towards it. If there is something people always wanted, not just a thing but a way of making it, and you give that, they never forget it. So soon I had my shop down the street from your parents' apartment. But there was always a place for me at supper. And we took all our summer holidays together." Ernst remembered me, age four, in the ocean off Cape Breton island. "I watched you in those waves but I could never have saved you - 1 couldn't swim."

n Ernst's faded photographs of him and my family he is always more formally dressed than anyone else, except in holiday scenes. I remember sitting in his shop, smelling the bubbling glue made of horses' hoofs and watching him turn chair-legs on his lathe. I felt sale. My father was a violent man, although soft-spoken with outsiders. I asked Ernst if he remembered my stammer. He hesitated; it was his only negative observation of our time together. "I remember. It was your

father. I'd say he was crude." Crude! Relief rolled over me. Over the decades my sister and I grew tired of being told about our gentle father. Now a third person remembered. And better still: "You know Jonathan, you look like your father. But you're not like him."

Ernst had a lot to say about hatred. "It poisons everything. When I was working in Hollywood, like all carpenters I had made my own tools. And we branded them with our own marks. The other fellows liked my tools. Sometimes one of them would steal one. I'd go over and say That's my tool'. They'd pretend to be surprised and try to give it back. I'd

say, 'No keep it'.

That fellow would use my tool all his life and know it was mine and that he'd stolen it. He'd feel really ashamed. But there was no hatred.

Grannies left out in the cold

A new organisation has been set up to help people cut off from their grandchildren by family squabbles

PAT O'DELL would be many. parents' idea of the perfect grandmother. When her daughter Nikki, a single mother, returned to work after the birth of her son Timmy, Pat looked after him during the week. Timmy also spent many weekends with Pat and her husband, and their relationship blossomed. "We were really close," she says.

But after two years, relations with her daughter began to sour. Nikki met a man someone her mother did not approve of - and made other arrangements for Timmy's care. Then they moved away and Nikki rang and told Pat she would never see her grandson again.

The way she said it I believed her," Pat says, "but I hoped that after a couple of years she would come round." Pat and her husband then raised more than £4,000 to re-

establish contact with Timmy through the courts. Eventually, Nikki agreed outside the courtroom to a fortnightly meeting at a family centre but, just before the first visit, changed her mind. Five

years later, Pat does not even

know where her daughter and

grandson are living. She describes her separation from Timmy as a bereavement without end. "When a child dies you move on; that child always has a place in your heart, but you know they have gone, But I know Timmy's out there all the time. Although I haven't seen him since he wax two every day I feel his arms around me, see his smile, remember his touch. Some days it's just

unbearable." Her experience prompted Pat to set up the Grandparents Support Organisation (GSO), a Southampton-based charity offering mediation and legal advice to grandparents who have lost touch with their

grandchildren. GSO deals with more than 500 cases a year. Many grandparents are denied access by a daughter-in-law following a separation, others are estranged from their own children or lose contact when the children are taken into care.

Of those grandparents who seek access through the courts, about 70 per cent are successful, though some spend as much as £12,000 in the process. Unlike parents, grandparents must initially seek leave from the court to make an application, says Hugh Travers, a London barrister. If leave is granted, as it usually is, grandparents can then apply for access. The courts

consider the grandparent's re-lationship with the child, whether there is acrimony between the two parties, and then decide whether re-establishing contact is in the child's best interests.

Judges are generally sympathetic, Mr Travers says. But gaining a contact order is one thing, and getting parents to co-operate is another

After the birth of her second grandson, the atmosphere between Eileen, her only son Adam and his girlfriend Anna deteriorated. One day when Eileen went to drop off the children's Christmas presents, she found they'd moved.

After months with no contact, Eileen became so depressed that her second husband wrote pleading with Anna to get in touch. "She phoned and said we would never see the boys again," Elleen savs.

Eileen started legal proceedings, and was allowed access to the children for four hours a month, although she could see her new grandson for only half an hour. "I wasn't allowed to give them toys or sweets, or even kiss them. But at least I was seeing them," she says. But not for long.

That Christmas, Eileen and her son had an argument; he refused to let her give the children presents, then wrote saying they didn't love her and didn't want to see her again.

EILEEN has not met her grandsons now for nearly two years. She has never seen her granddaughter, now one, despite three requests for a photograph. "I can't describe the hurt, the horrible feeling of having all this love and no one

to direct it to," she says. But she refuses to give up. Twice a month she writes with pocket money, and regularly sends birthday presents. Easter eggs, gifts for the summer holidays. "It's a little bit of contact," she says. "I want them to know that their

nanny loves them." Eileen has gone back to court, but is not hopeful of the outcome. "At the end of the day, the court's priority is the children's welfare, and apparently they're saying they don't want to see me. But I'll always go on hoping and trying, because I love them, and I don't know what I've done to justify such a terrible punishment.

EMMA HAUGHTON Some names have been changed in order not to jeopardise efforts to re-establish contact.

● Grandparents Support Organisation, 01703 632387.



Pat O'Dell has not seen her grandson, Timmy, for five years

'The advancing thud of horse's hoofs woke the slumbering piglet. It was hard to tell who was more frightened'

ه حدد امن رالإمل

hat follows is a wind although sad, might give some although sad, might give some who Y V encouragement to anyone who thinks their working days are done and life will now be no more than a slow decline towards the inevitable scrap heap. While the song says "only the good die young", it seems that when it comes to carthorses the good ones sometimes go

on forever. One of our three Suffolk Punches. Blue, died last week at 12 years old. It was a premature death for a carthorse, but these things are not entirely unexpected.
Despite their Herculean appearance, the inner workings of a big horse are a delicate mechanism consisting seemingly of miles of pipework, any length of which is predisposed to tangle. When their guts kink like an uncooperative garden hosepipe, internal functions come to a grinding and painful halt. Once knowed the gut is rarely undone, and the horse inevitably dies. Many good horses

are lost this way.

It was shame it had to be Blue that went. He was at the very peak of his

An old Star still shines brightly

DOWN TO EARTH

a working carthorse. There was no job at and not on them so which he would flinch, be it ploughing, harrowing or dragging logs. He was one of the best: gentle, skilful, obedient and kind. In fact, the only time I remember him ever making a mistake was when dragging a ridging plough between rows of leafy potatoes in order to throw more earth over the growing tubers: this prevents them catching the sun and turning green. Unbeknown to either me or Blue, a two-month-old black piglet had escaped from the neighbouring pigrun by wriggling under the electric fence till it was free. It then headed for the field of potatoes - heaven for a pig. Here, it dug its juvenile snout into the field to unearth the succulent spuds, and gorged itself. Sated, it curled up between the rows and fell fast asleep, snoring.

Meanwhile, Blue and I were approaching. Like all good carthorses he knew that he must plod between the ridges,

as not to damage the crop. It was hardly taxing work and took and so both he and I ambled across the field, our minds blank, our feet on auto-pilot. It was at this moment that the advancing thud of the horse's feet woke the slumbering pig. Stirred by what must approaching earth-

quake, the piglet snapped awake and raised its head above the green foliage. It is difficult to know who was the more frightened: the piglet who seared it was about to be trampled, or the poor carthorse who had been wandering

along in a daze only to have a little black demon appear in its path. Either way, both fled. It was easier for the piglet, since he could dive back beneath the to mother for comfort. Blue, however, stincts told him all

dragging me and the plough behind him. All calming, soothing and halting words failed to impress him, and it was only when we arrived back at his stable. door that he halted, panting and trem-bling like a child that had seen a ghost. It was fortunate that the field gate was open

or I suspect he might have tried to jump it. With the plough behind him. That apart, he never made another mistake.

always felt that he was owed a peaceful life, having had a turbulent start in the world. Some days before he was due to be born, his mother, very heavy in foal, fell into a deep ditch and could not be extracted until they called the fire brigade. So grateful was the mare's owner that she promised to name the offspring after them. That was how he came to be called Blue - they were the Blue Watch. Now he has been taken from us, suddenly, out of the blue. We miss

But life must go on, and a field has to be ploughed. He would not have wanted us to use a tractor. It is a job for two horses and our youngster, Taffy, could not be asked to do it alone. So, who do you think I found peering over the hedge

as if to say "can I help?"? No less than dear old Star. Twenty-two years old, stiff and creaky, shoes removed now he no longer works. I wondered if the job might not be too much for him. It seemed like dragging grandad from his bath chair and telling him to dig the garden.

But there was a twinkle in his eye when I brought him off the meadow, which groupsted he was ready and

which suggested he was ready and willing to take on the task. Once in the stable, he dutifully bent his head to take the collar and made for the field with the sort of spring in his step you might expect

Without any prompting he was back in the furrow, treading carefully along it, keeping up a brisk pace which his partner. nearly 20 years younger, was having difficulty matching. And while young Taffy started to raise a sheen of sweat across his chest, old Star remained as cool and collected as if he had been as cool and collected as if he had been training for this day for months.

Which only goes to show that there is many a good tune played on an old fiddle. A pity that, this week, it had to be

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. They are published on the first Samuelay of the month.

Competition is cut-throat among the growers of record-breaking vegetables, says Anjana Ahuja

Pump up the pumpkin

curecy, subterfuge and sabotage. Little comes close to the shadowy world of growing giant fruit and vegetables. A husband and wife had their outsize onions stolen the night before a big show. An American anthropologist was so fascinated by the passions shown by leek growers that she shadowed them. Dave Smith incurred the wrath of the Gateshead council for building a huge greenhouse in which to grow his exhibits. Neil Armstrong of Northumberland paid a friend £50 to sleep on his allotment to guard his prizewin-ning leeks — heudlines later de-clared that Mr Armstrong had made "a giant leek for mankind".

Even after the fruit and veg show contests, entries are never left unattended. There is a lot of money to be made from the sale of seeds of giant specimens - there is even an organisation called the Worldwide Giant Seed Club - and as a result there have been several cases of exhibits disappearing.

Growers are often more interested in competing than in a particular vegetable or fruit. According to the Guinness Book of Records, Bernard Lavery, a grower from South Wales who has now moved to the United Arab Emirates, holds seven world records -for cabbage, carrot, longest comcob, courgette, marrow, parsnip and watermelon. And of the 32 listed records. 14 are held by people

in Britain. For this dedicated band, the premier event is the UK Giant Fruit and Vegetable Championships, held every autumn at the Baytree Nursery. Spalding. Lincolnshire,

and which attracts 100 competitors. "The competition is intense." says Dave Brennan, one of the organisers. "A lot of the plants are grown at secret locations to avoid

the threat of saborage."

Do people really go around taking potshots at rivals marrows? "I don't personally know of a case. but some competitors reckon it's a read concern." Mr Brennan says.

The entrants, he adds, never reveal their gardening secrets, because of the money involved: Each first-prize vegetable wins £250, with second and third prizes of £75 and £25. Then we have a final round, where the person who has done the best across all categories picks up \$1,500. I reckon that this year's winner. Ken Dade, walked off with more than \$3,000."

Jimmy Reid, a 75-year-old former demolition contractor, of Gilling West, near Richmond, North Yorkshire, disagrees that money is an incentive. His harvest this year included a 2½th tomato, a 14½th nucumber and a 30th watermelon.



Allan Bagnell, with an outsize prize leek at the Spaiding show

He had to remove the doors of his greenhouse to extricate his prize

pumpkin, weighing 678lb. The prize money's grand, but you're never going to grow fat on it." Mr Reid says. "It costs me at least £50 to hire a van or lorry to get the produce to the shows."

Trying to glean the secrets of the big veg is often fruitless. But good fertiliser and plain water is a favourite, and some gardeners claim that a pint, of beer works

A few even suggest that chatting to the plants promotes growth. Others are more down-to-earth. You have to do a pH test on your soil and find a fertiliser to match," Mr Reid says. "All that other stuff, like feeding them beer, is a load of

n her book, Pumpkins and Squash, Caroline Boisset sets out a complex four-point plan for any aspiring pumpkin champion. The first step is to dig an enormous pit and fill it with wellroned farm manure and soil.

Step two involves planting ahead of the last frost, then "planting out" when two leaves appear.

A balfling array of fertilisers is then employed in a very specific order, to plump up the buds. Generous watering and high-phosphate fertiliser follows, and on cool summer nights, pumpkins should be covered.

Despite her advice, Ms Boisset Is not enthusiastic about growing giant vegetables.

"I think they give vegerables a bad name. It puts people off growing pumpkins, because they icel they can't grow the large ones. Even if they do, people don't tend to eat them. Smaller varieties are far

FEATHER REPORT

heard the egret's strange

courting calls, like gobbling

turkeys, from a dense area of

trees. They guessed a pair

might be trying to breed, but it

was some weeks before his

assistant. Giles Strother, saw

one with a stick in its beak.

and so became the first person

to observe a nesting little egret

the bulky tree nest, and three

of them fledged successfully.

only the five nesting pairs, but

others coming to roost in the

trees at dusk, with up to 20

birds present on some sum-

mer nights. The breeding

birds could be seen courting

This year, there were not



Jimmy Reid, 75, of Gilling West, Richmond, Yorkshire, had to remove the doors of his greenhouse to extricate his prize 678lb pumpkin

Where size matters

THE BOOKIES' favourite is a farmworker who prefers to remain anonymous and keeps his specimen under sacks, away from prying eyes. But Freddie Parker, aged 12, is rumoured to have the biggest in the village. And this has left Michael Kerslake, a local builder, none too pleased: his is only the size of a football. Anjana

Ahuja writes. We are discussing the pumpkin wars. The main topic of conversation in the village of Washfield, Devon, has been the annual com-petition, to be held tonight, to find

the heaviest pumpkin.

It is clear that showing your pumpkin is a solemn business. Not even the competition organisers are above suspicion. The later the judging, the more The later the judging, the more likely it is that some pumpkins will have rotted," says Frederick, owner of "The Chosen One", which already weighs about 85th.

Pete Bennett, holder of the village record (a 128-pounder in 1994) is doubtful about entering

this year. A rival has pointed out that he lives outside the village, in Tiverton, whose altitude is 200m lower than Washfield. Pumpkins grown in Tiverton, says the rival enjoy a warmer climate.

Mr Kerslake insists that, despite the intense rivairy, there is no "skulduggery or jiggery pokery", although he has heard that one local has taken to relieving himself over his neighbour's pride and joy.

All entrants must buy their plants (which come from the same batch) from the village committee during the summer, and 27 people took up the challenge this year. Tonight, the world will know who has the biggest in Washfield.

it Antique



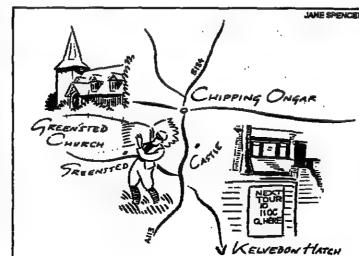
Freddie Parker, 12, with his 85lb entry, "The Chosen One"

superior." But they don't win prizes. Two years ago Mr Reid won a holiday to America at an annual competition in Broughton, near Southampton, but his fear of flying meant the prize was passed to the

runner-up. Neither his prizewinning pump kins, nor his normal-sized leeks and onions, are destined for the dinner table. "I never eat them, and my wife, Ivy, is sick at the sight of them," Mr Reid says. "I usually give them away or put them on the compost heap - after I've taken the seeds out."

Why, then, does he grow them? "To pass the time," he says. "You can't just sit around the nouse and

Pumpkins and Squash, by Caroline Boisett, is published by Mitchell-



ON THE SPOT: GREENSTED CHURCH

Rural recommendations

The place: the churchyard of Greensted Church, Chipping Ongar, Essex, with its majestic sycamores, spruces and yews.

The view the ancient wooden church is clearly divided in three: the white tower, timbered Saxon nave and brick chancel. Appeal: unspoilt and friendly with lots of atmosphere.

Historical interest: people have worshipped here continuously for 1,300 years. There is a grave thought to be that of a 12th-century crusader, and in 1834 the Tolpuddle Martyrs were given temporary shelter nearby. Time to visit: any bright, autumn day.

How to get there: from the Al13 follow signs to Greensted Church. OS ref: 539/030 on sheet 167.

Also nearby: Chipping Ongar and its Motte and Bailey castle built in 1155. The secret nuclear bunker at Kelvedon Hatch is three miles south.

DEBORAH KING

BRITAIN has a magnificent new breeding bird. It is the little egret, an elegant white heron with long plumes on its back in the summer - the nigrettes that milliners once used to trim hats

These fine creatures have been visiting us in greater and greater numbers for some years now, probably dispersng from their colonies in Brittany and western France. The first three nests were recorded in summer 1996, one on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. Dorset, the others urther west, but these were

in this country. Four chicks were eventually hatched in cept a treasured secret. This summer, a colony of ive pairs bred on Brownsea. and one pair elsewhere — and he news broke this week.

Kevin Cook is the warden in the Brownsea Island naure reserve, which is leased by the Dorset Wildlife Trust rom the National Trust. He old me how, in 1996, they



That's no turkey – it's an egret

Egrets usually feed on the shrimps in brackish waters

in the treetops, flying round each other, or dancing up and down on the branches with their plumes waving. The Brownsea birds produced 12 young between them. They feed in the brackish waters at

the edge of the harbour, and behave quite differently from our grey herons. The latter stand very still, or step cautiously forward, before suddenly plunging their head downwards and spearing an unsuspecting fish. They generally hunt alone.

The egrets more often feed in small teams, and are more energetic. As they step forward they stir up the mud and disturb the shrimps, then chase them through the water. in the style of greenshanks rather than herons.

WITH LUCK, the Brownsea colony will grow next summer, and other colonies could well be founded in other parts of southwest England. Perhaps they will even become

common birds in Britain. In Italy (where many tour-ists have watched them in the Venice lagoon) there are some colonies with more than 1,000 noisy, squabbling pairs nesting in them. Global warming

may be responsible for the spread of this mainly Mediterranean species in northern Europe, and their dramatic

arrival here. There are plenty around at present, mostly in estuaries and other quiet waters in southern England. A good place to see a flock this weekend will be the Exe estuary in Devon. Apart from their gleatning white plumage, they have a sharp black bill long black legs and (when they lift them out of the water) yellowish feet. They are quite unmistakable, and they are a thrilling sight.

DERWENT MAY What's about Birders — watch for bramblings among flocks of finches. Twitchers — Blyth's read warbler at Flamborough Head. East Yorkshire: pied wheatear also in East Yorkshire: Flume's warbler at Holme, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222, Calls cost 50p a minute.

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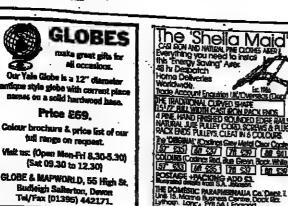
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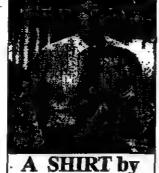
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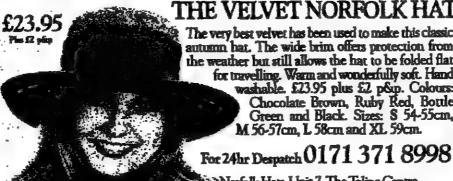
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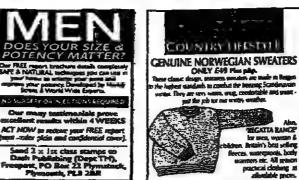
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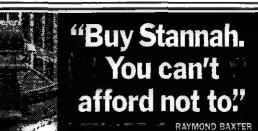


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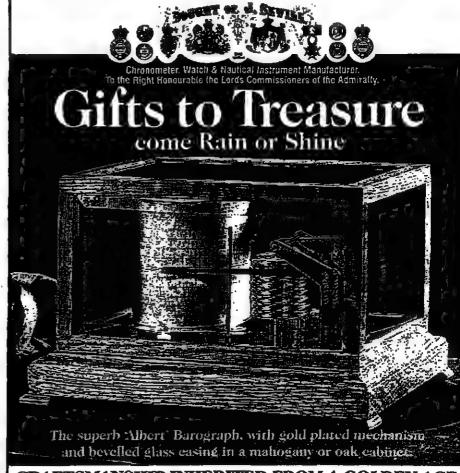
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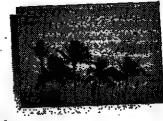
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E6 million millernium project to restore church bells in at least 100

communities in Britain could be in

jeopardy because of bureaucracy.

One of only two surviving foundries in the country, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

which began casting bells in 1570 and is a survivor of the Fire of London, has cast

almost nothing for the Ringing in of the

Millennium" celebrations, because it takes

so long for everyone to go through all the hoops required by the Millennium Commission before they can receive funding.

Alan Hughes, the firm's managing direc-

tor, believes it will be a race against time to

have the bells up and ringing for January I 2000 even when the orders are processed. He is also concerned that the current shortage of

work will affect his business.

"Next week seven or eight bells

are due to be made," he says, "but

the following week the number is

down to one or two. We have pro-

visional orders for 40 to 60 bells," he adds, "but we can't do any-thing until individual projects have been given the go-ahead. If

we've still got no confirmations by December, half of my workforce of 28 will be doing

nothing. The situation is threat-

ening our very existence."

Bell work cannot be done

hastily. Mr Hughes says that an additional bell ordered today would not be in place in the

church tower until next Easter.

Clanger that

could muffle

celebrations

Friday

prayers



Ruth Gledhill enjoys a lunchtime Mass for City workers

AS WITH many workers I am instantly drawn to any event with the title Thank God Irs Friday". This particular invitation was to a lunchtime event. I was expecting a poppy; instead it turned out to be a traditionalist's dream.

The priest-in-charge, the Ven Gordon Reid, is unpaid in this job, which he does at weekends, lunchbreaks and in between being Vicar-General of the Church of England's Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe. St Michael Cornhill was one of the many City churches threatened with closure in the recent report of the Templeman commission but efforts are now being made to keep it alive. The response to his first TGIF Mass indicated his faith might be justified.

Among the crowd was Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, director of the National Bank of Kuwait and master of the Drapers' Company. The pews were in traditional style, with livery shields on the wooden hinged doors and Sir Michael took up prime position in the Drapers' pew. The service, with the bells, the music, liturgy and the setting itself, would have been good on a Sunday morning in a cathedral. For a City lunchtime

church, it was exceptional. We made our "humble confession" to God upon our knees. We bewailed our sins and wickednesses which we most grievously had committed and the burden of which had become intolerable. We heard the comforting words: "Come unto me all that

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The TGIF Mass will be held on the first Friday of every month and a guest speaker — restricted to ten minutes - will be invited to preach. For this first service, Archdeacon Reid took to the pulpit and exempted himself from the ten-minute rule,

The concept of the Mass, he explained, came from his former posting as Anglican chaplain in Stockholm. where the American marines celebrated the end of each week with a thank-God-it's-Friday party.

"It is about looking for-ward to recreation, thanking God that you have a job. that there is something you can do for your fellow man. to serve your neighbour," he said. It was right that we should stop work at the end each week, he added. "Even God himself stopped work and had a Sabbath day of rest."

He progressed through the prayer of consecration communion, finishing just in time to free us for work that afternoon.

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Alan Hughes of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry is anxiously awaiting orders for new work

محدر من رلامل

be ringing throughout the land'

'At noon,

thousands

of church

bells will

taking into account the designs, planning permission and equipment Ross Nimmo, general manager of bellrope makers John Pritchard Ropes in Loughborough, Leicestershire, says: "The project will be a wonderful boost to the industry and a great way of renewing interest in bellringing. So far, though, there have been plenty of faxes and plenty of quotations but not a lot of hard-and-fast orders."

The idea for Ringing in the Millennium originated in Leicestershire, at St Remigius in Long Clawson, near Melton Mowbray. The church wanted two lighter bells to add to its ring of six, but Dr Lin Foxhall Forbes, a bell-ringer at St Remigius, reasoned that the Millennium Commission would be unlikely to fund such a relatively small venture. So

omeone offers you a hollday. It

will, he says, be an experience

of total relaxation. No work, no

phones, no faxes, no cars, no shopping, no television, no radio, just perfect quiet and peace. Best of all, there are no bills. The holiday is free.

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It is called the Sabbath - the most

original contribution of the Bible to

civilisation, and still the most

Today is Shabbat Bereishith, the

"Sabbath of Beginnings". For the

past three weeks, Jews throughout-

the world have been celebrating the

great sequence of lestivals that mark

the beginning of the Jewish year, Rosh Hashanah (New Year), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) and Sukkor [Tabernacles].

Now, life gets back to normal. And

we mark this point in time by going back, in our regular biblical readings

in the synagogue, to the beginning of

Genesis, with its majestic poem on

journey, not from one place to another, but from one time zone to

nes Joy & Unio

Small 1997 11

Bell-Ringers would ask for funding for about 100 individual projects — was conceived. The application was made in December

the voluntary Central Council of Church

1995, and seven months later the commission announced that the bid had been successful. The grant was £3 million, with the proviso that a further £3 million come from local fundraising activities and private donations. By the end of 1996, 500 initial applications

for funding had been received. Of these, 150 projects have made progress with arranging co-funding and 48 projects are up and running. The deadline for registered projects is January 31 1998, but no new applications can now be considered. Dr Forhall Forbes, one of two co-ordinators of the project, says that approval of applications is proceeding apace, and is confident of meet-

ing the target of 100-plus projects. She explained that some of the church tower bells may not have been rung for a long time, while others need restoring. Most of the work will go to eight firms of bellhangers and the two foundries that do casting and retuning.

Grants range from £2,000 to more than £60,000 for a Somer-set church where bell-ringers could be trained. St Remigius has received more than 19,000. Meanwhile, the recruitment drive to enlist 5,000 new bell-

ringers to "Ring in 2000" continues. The Ringing World, the weekly journal for church bell-ringers, will publish a monthly list of new recruits with updates on their progress. The first list will be published in The Ringing World on

Editor Tina Strecklin says: "Hopefully, when noon comes on January I 2000, thousands of church bells will sound throughout the land, reminding us that the millennium is a lot more than a big party."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● For details on Ringing in the Millennium, contact Dr Lin Forball Forba: 0166+12209. Tina Stoecklin at The Ringing World: 01483 569535. Whitechapel Bell Foundry, 32/34 Whitechapel Road, London El 1DY, John

The Sabbath: our day of freedom and family life

and its unexpected climax —

It is hard for us today to Every pagan religion had its festivals and holy days. But on none was work prohibited. They celebrated fertility, birth

gods. None, though, celebrated rest.

The ancients believed that we imitate God by exercising power.
What was novel about the Sabbath was the idea that we can imitate God by doing nothing, by ceasing, pausing, resting, reflecting and seeing that



and death, the slow turn of the seasons, the mythic battles of the cannot be the whole truth, but it is part of it, and we live it one day in

> The Sabbath played a decisive role in Jewish history. In the book of Deuteronomy, it became a central defence of freedom. The Israelites had been slaves, and the defining

physical burden of labour (in a free society there are still workaholics) than the fact that your time is not your own. You are subject to someone else's will. The Sabbath broke that

bondage. For one day in seven, no one could be employed. Everyone was master of his or her time. The Sabbath does not in itself create freedom, but it does generate a powerful appetite for it.

No one who has experienced the Sabbath is content to remain a slave. Today, the battle against slavery has been won in most parts of the world. But liberal democracies have other, subtler pressures of their own.

There are times when we work too hard, drive too fast, buy too much, driven by the thousand anxieties of everyday life, some real, others

For me, the Sabbath remains the still point at the centre of a turning world. It is the time when we come together as a family: eating, talking, singing and catching up with one another's company. We stop rushing to make a living, and instead simply live and celebrate life.

The Sabbath is a world we enter as equal citizens. The hierar-L chies of work and wealth are suspended. And as the rhythms of the day take over, I find myself once again recalled to the things that matter and that I sometimes forget in the rush of weekday time - love, listening, the company of family and friends, the glory of the created world.

It remains a supreme example of holy time, an oasis of rest in an otherwise restless age. The writer is Chief Rabbi



Archdeacon Gordon Reid at St Michael's, Comhill

Church Services tomorrow

Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity.
BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; II Ch M. Te Deum in C (Stanford): 3.15 Ch E. 5 Gosber. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M; II S.

Euch, Missa S. Joannis de Deo (Hayda): 3.30 RoSPA Service RIMMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Ench: 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL SHC 9.15 M; 10.30 Euch. Mass for three voices (B)rd), Canon Galilee; 4 Ch E. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch, Canon P A Pearcey: 3.30 E, Noble in B

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7:40 M: 8 HC: 10 Ch Euch; 3.30 Ch E. Sumsion in D. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 9.30 M; Il S Euch: 3.15 E; 6.30 United Nations Service for World Peace. CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch.

Sumsion in F. 3 E. Noble in B minor. CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP.8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11.15 S Euch, Leigh in C. Canon D Knight; o One World Week Service, Rev T Williams. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL S HC: 10

M; II S Euch, Chichester Mass (Albright): 3.WE, Dyson in F. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Dublin: 11 S Euch, Hear the voice and prayer (Tallis); 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford B HC: 10 M: 11.15 S Euch, Missa in simplicitate (Langlais), Canon Peirce, 6 E. CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch: 11.15 \$ Each, Herford in D: 7 Sung Compli COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C. 10.30 Euch, Rev J Peny: 5 Ch E. DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.45 S

Euch: 6 E. Sumsion in G. Ven I Garford.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M;

11.15 HC, Link Organ Mass (Haydn).

Canon M Perry: 3.30 E. Wood in D. ELY CATHEDRAL 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Darke in F. The Dean: 3.45 E. Collegium Regale (Wood).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 945 S Each, Harwood in A flat: 11.15 University-Service; 3 E. Noble in B minor: 6.30 ES. GLUCESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC; 10.15 Each, Stanford in B flat and F, Canon N Charlield: 12.15 HC: 3 E. GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Samsion in F: II. 15 M. Aubilate in C (British); 6.30 E. Ven R Reiss

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL 8 HC 10 Euch, Jackson in G. Canon B Chave, 11:30 M; 2:30 E; 3:30 ES for One World Week. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, The Bishop of Lynn: 4 Ch E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10:30 S Euch, Darke in F: 3.30 E. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Ench, Canon J Polkinghorne; 3 Ch E, Canon D Hutton; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L: 8. 9 Euch; 11 S Euch; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Wood in F; 6.30 E. NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, 9.30 S Euch, Canon M Ferwick; 6 Ch

E. Wood in E. NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M. Responses (Stewart); 6.30 S Each, Mass for four-voices (Byrd). NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30

S Euch: 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, Canon G Tarris: 6.30 Night Prayer. PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Nystedi), The Chancelor; 3.30 E. PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC;

9.30 C; Il S Euch, Hall true body (Plainsong); 6.30 E, Harris in D. RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 930 Euch, Sumsion in F. Ven K Good; 11:30 M, Responses (Neary): 12:30 Euch; 5:30 E. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Missa Aeierna Christi munera (Palestrina): 3 E, Responses (Barnard). SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch: Il Ch Euch, Missa Orbis factor (Plainsong), The Provost: 3 Ch E, Carton H Curtific. SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8 HC: 9.30 C. Canon M R Austin; Il S Euch; 3.15 E. Walmisley in D minor.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M; 10 S Euch, Rev T Russ: 6 E, Gray in F minor. WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 9.15 C. Il Solemn Euch, Ireland in F. Canon R Capper; 4 E and Harvest Thanksgiving. WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC, 10 M, Canon D Gray; 11.15 Euch; 3 E, Stanford in C; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES. WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12.10 12.10 Exchange Many 245 Change Parities.

10.30, 12 Solemn Mass: 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B. Magnificat octavi tom WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; ILLS S Euch, Durke in F: 3.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon C Wright. YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC. 10 S Euch: 11.30 M. Benedicite in G (lackson): 4 E. Gloucester Service (Howells).

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertford-shire: 8 HC; 9:30 Eoch; 11 M, Te Deum (Stanford); 12.15 HC; 6:30 E. STASAPH CATHEDRAL, Chwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch. M. Shanford P.A., Chwyd: 8 HC; Il Ch M, Stanford in B flat, Rev C A Mitchell; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Euch: 6 E. The Successor

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Mingins; 10 S Euch; 11.30 Ch C, Darke in F, 3.30 Ch E, Sumsion in A. ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Missa Brevis (Kyric); 11.30 Civic Service 6 St Giles at Six; 8 ES, Rev D K

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10,30 S Euch, Rev P Bowes; 3.30 Ch E, Noble in B minor.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 8.30 Euch, 10 S Euch; 12 HC; 6.30 Ch E. ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 HC, Rev R Frazer; 3 HC: 6 ES. ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: Ch E, Rev R S P Richey. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M;

II S Euch, Missa brevis (Chapple): 3.15 E, Cartisle Service (Waish): 5 Organ Recital, RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHE-DRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony. ALL SAINTS, WI: 8 LM; 10.20 MP. 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Palestrina): 5.15 LM; 6 E & B. Walmisley in D minor.

ALL SOULS, WE 8 HC; 930, 1130 MP, Rev J Cook; 630 EP, Rev R Bewes. THE ASSUMPTION, WI: 11 MS. Missa dixit Maria (Hasler). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW& 8 HC. 10 Children's Service; IJ M., Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC: 6 E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND, WC2: 11.15 MS, Dr P Green; 6.30 ES, Mr T Fleicher. FARM STREET, WI: 8, 9.30 LM: 11 HM;

12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC: 11 MS, Mr J Jennings; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev R Thorpe.
THE ORATORY. SW7: 7. 8. 9, 10, 11, 12.30 Mass, 330 V & B, Adoramus te Christe (Aichinger); 430, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W& Feast of the Discovery of The Holy WESLEY'S CHAPEL, ECZ: 9.45 HC; II MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 HC, Rev Dr P Graves: 6.30 ES, Rev E Fletchet. ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran). EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev J Jeruma-Grinsberga; 7 Juzz Vespers. ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT. ECI: 9 HC; II M. Noble in B minor. The Rector: 630 E. Collegium Magdalenae

(Leighton), Mr H Pous.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: II Ch M & Euch, Harwood in A flat: 6.30 Ch E. Responses (Ayleward), Canon J Oates. ST CLEMENT DANES: II M. Te Down and Jubilate (Stanford in C). Rev P J

Howson: 12.30 HC. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND. SWI: II HC; 3 HC. Rev J II McIndoe 6.30 ES. ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place II S

Mass, Messe Solennelle (Gounod). ST GEORGE'S, WI: 830 HC: II S Euch. Missa Brevis in F (Haydn), The Rector. ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8:30 HC; II S Euch, Rev S Cathie: 5:45 EP. ST JOHN'S, Els: Il Family Service, Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev M Okello. ST LUKE'S, SW3. 8 HC: 10.30 MP & HC. Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow); 6.30 E. Rev J Streeting.

ST MARK'S. NWI: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; II S Each, Darke in A minor. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS. WC2-8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES. ST MARY'S, SWI: 9, 10 LM; II HM; Fr B Scou; 6 Solemn E & B: 7 LM.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch. Jubilate Deo (Britten). Mrs R Berke: 6 Living with Faith. ST MARYLEBONE, WI: 8 HC; II Ch Euch. Congregation Mass (Robinson). ST PAUL'S, SWt: 8. 9 HC; 11 Solema Euch, Darke in F, Canon D Hutt. ST PETER'S, SWI: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euch; II S Euch, Missa da Cappella (Monteverdi), Fr W P Keyes. ST SIMON ZELOTES, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M. Jubilate (Herschel Hill); 6.30 E. CHAPEL, ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15

HC: 11 M, Responses (Leighton). CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, O how glorious (Harwood). CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Pal-QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY. WC2: 11 M, Te Deum (Holst). The Chaplain; 12:30 HC.

QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Windoor Castle: 8:30 HC: 10:45 M; The Dean; 11:45 Euch; 5:15 E. THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30, 11.15 HC, Darke in F. The Master. GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Bar-racks, SWI: II M, Ave Regina Caelurum (Carver). Rev T Cole; 12 HC. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL SEIG: II S Euch, Communion Service in C

(Ireland), Rev R Numon.

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Wedding bells in the Seychelles



Mary Gold tied the knot on an island in paradise

ting married, she invoked the names of several saints and stamped her foot, all at the same time. She pointed out that my intended was divorced and "not even a Catlick" and then knocked her pipe out noisily on the grate elore breaking into Irish always a bad sign. I sipped my sherry and said: "Do I take it

you won't be coming?" We decided to go abroad. When I said I wanted to go somewhere I had never been before, Harry (my intended) said: "How about the kitchen?" I ignored that - and picked the Sevchelles.

Couples tie the knot in a foreign country for a variety of reasons - escaping their rela-tives, the British weather, or people from a previous exis-tence who might-term-up and cause a scene. In our case it was all of these. It is also much cheaper to marry abroad. The average cost of a wedding in-Britain is £9,534. Our ceremony in the Seychelies cost just a few hundred pounds

The benefits are obvious. You do not need caterers, bridesmaids or speeches and, on a small island, the groom cannot run away - well, not easily. All you have to do is turn up at the appointed time. When we came back to England we had a church blessing. We invited 100 guests, hired a marquee and it poured with rain the night before. I had three hours' sleep and my stress levels went off the

But on Mahé, the principal island of the Seychelles, the sun shone and the only stress came from deciding where to eat lunch. For us, the attraction of these islands was the things that were missing neon lights and Mick Jagger singing Pm a Bleeding Volcano.

n fact, after a few hours you realise why a group of mercenaries, posing as a touring rugby team, tried to stage a takeover in 1981. When one of them hoisted his holdail at the airport, an AK47 fell out. This gave the Customs men a clue and it was all downhill from there.

Today, there is little crime on the Seychelles, a faci reflected in the headlines of Mahe's "Car park closed for diplo-mat's funeral". The only real story seemed to be of a New Zealand pirate travelling on a stolen passport, who took someone's yacht and jumped into the sea in Mahé harbour when the game was up.

Pirates are among the privileged few to have visited these 10 odd islands stuck in the middle of the Indian Ocean they have been inhabited for linle more than 200 years —



For better or worse: Harry and Mary after their sunshine beach wedding ceremony at Fisherman's Cove on Mahé, in the Seychelles strangers, to where Harry was waiting. The ceremony was informal but dignified, mainly because the island's senior

and for most of their brief history they have been unvisited. They are 1,000 miles from the nearest landfall and have only played host to tourists since the 1970s. Even in Port Victoria, the shabby but vi-brant capital of Mahé, tourists look out of place, like sepia people who have wandered

nto a colour photograph. Fisherman's Cove, where we spent five days before we were married (a legal requirement), was a picture. Little thatched bungalows draped in bougainvillea surrounded the main plantation-style house (also thatched), and the whole caboodle overlooked the indian Ocean. Since a lovely lady called Janine was handling the

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work shenanigans, there was little for us to do except lurk on the beach. Middle-aged men from with port-mottled faces waded thighdeep into the warm water and then stood still, sighing deeply, as if to say: that's enough exercise for

wedding in the bar, where we met the dashing Norfolk Charlton and his lovely wife. Anne, a Lauren Bacali lookalike, both charming - and both ideal for our last flirting session as least until Peter con-

fessed his admiration for Margaret Thatcher. The next day I went into the plantation house, where the ceremony was to take place, to find six people decorating the balcony with a great arbour of flowers. An elderly gardener

Beach at Bird Island: "a little slice of heaven" stay here. There is wedding

later. So I took myself off for a stiff drink and to wait, fidgeting, for the hairdresser. I thought I might have half an hour before the 4pm ceredresser did not depart until the said: "Madam, you cannot

minutes for war-paint and getting dressed. Just as I was starting to cry. Janine appeared champagne, turned the air conditioning to the "demented woman" setting and found the earring 1 had dropped on the

Anyone who tells

you the dress is not important abroad is talking rubbish. It is far orf the beach." His wife smiled more important. You can look very silly indeed stand-ing on a beach in the Caribbean dressed as Little Bo Peep. The dress must be cool, but not look like a could not have been nicer. sundress. A com-pany called Ronald Joyce does a good.

reasonably priced range especially for hot climates and I managed to stop panicking long enough for Jamine to stuff me into one. Then it was down to the plantation house on the arm of

James, the best man borrowed from the hotel, smiling into the video carneras of complete

quite so loudly when I have been knocking a couple of years off ever since I was thirty-mumble-mumble. We cut the cake, opened the champagne and then Peter said: "Is that it? If I'd known it was that simple 1'd have fetched that little Danish gel

registrar spoke respectfully and slowly, although he need

not have announced my age

indulgently.

Jamine had arranged for us to go out in a boat, so we hitched up my frock and hopped into a speedboat for an hour around the island. The crew of a tall ship moored in the bay sounded their foghorn and threw flowers. It really

The next day we took the half-hour flight to Bird Island. where a maximum of 40 guests share a little slice of eaven with three giant tortoises and the one and a hall million sooty terns that come to nest here between May and

Guy Savy and his wife Marie-France bought Bird Island for £28,000 in 1967, built Continued on page 22

SEYCHELLES FACT FILE

Mary Gold travelled with Elegant Resorts (01244) By Mary Gold travelled with Elegant Resons (0.244
897888). Her 15-night tailor-made package, including return flights from Gatwick on Air Seychelles, five nights' B&B at Fisherman's Cove, three nights' full board at Bird Island Lodge, seven nights' B&B at L'Archipel, and all transfers, costs from £2.655 per person. Departures year-round.

The wedding package at Fisherman's Cove, including the services of a registrar, floral arrangements, bottle of champagne, one-tier wedding cake, bouquet, headdress and groom's buttonhole, costs from £395. Allow four working days to organise a wedding in the Seychelles,

Air Seychelles (01293-596656) has two weekly services from Gatwick from E575-E775 return, depending on season

■ The Ronald Joyce dress, style no 1160, costs £199. Stockists nationwide on 0171-636 8989. Tiara by Jenny Wicks, 0161-434 6855.

■ Wedding arrangements on Mahe were handled by Janine Camille of Travel Services Seychelles on behalf of Elegant Resorts. The TSS number on Mahe is 00 248 322414.

It is important to plan something special after the ceremony and before dinner, otherwise you will inevitably be propping up the bar in your wedding clothes and looking foolish. A one-hour boat trip costs about £30. It is also worth booking musicians to enliven the proceedings. On Mahé an excellent guitarist costs £65, All can be booked through TSS. Most hotels will provide a room, free of charge, in which the groom can dress.

■ The best restaurant for a celebration dinner on Mahé is La Bagatelle in Bel Air (224722). On Praslin we liked the balcony restaurant at L'Archipel (232242).

■ Take with you pictures of the bouquet and hairstyle you want — English-speaking florists and hairdressers

■ Be careful when buying the coco de mer nuts — some are carved wooden copies. Look for the Seychelles government stamp and be prepared to pay £120.

Health tips: inoculations are not necessary but take insect repellent. Sand flies on Praslin are a menace. Take plastic sandals for the beach if you are a crab-ophobe. 🔳 Guidebooks: Mauritius, Réunion and the

Seychelles (Lonely Planet, £8.95); Spectrum guide to the

Seychelles (£12.99).



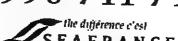
Not for Mary's photo album: coco de mer nuts

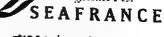


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The cruise ship that thinks it's a yacht

t was the evening Jimmy Lochhead, the maitre d'. bumped into us on the staircase that I realised the Sea Goddess was no ordinary ship and this was no ordinary trip. "Are you all right?" he asked. "I was getting worried about you." They served dinner until 10 o'clock. It was 9.15pm and we hadn't shown up at our usual table, so Jimmy was about to knock on our cabin door to make sure all was well. It was one to add to my memoirs, or to the work-in-progress Head Waiters I

The Sea Goddess I is a small ship that calls itself a yacht. I'd call it magic. Since the Government is a hit worried about replacing Britan-nia it might think of leasing the Sea Goddess. I can't imagine Her Majesty would object — although it might well make her cross when she looks around and thinks about what she's missed over the years.

For us, it was as though some wealthy potentate had invited us aboard his private craft, a kind of house party at sea. Before we travelled, Cunard sent

us a questionnaire. Among the questions was, "Would you like to let us have your favourite recipe?" We didn't, and I'm glad. The food on board was as tempting as the service, the ambience excellent. Unlike the bigger ships, the Sea Goddess has no theatre or cinema. so you are expected to linger long and comfortably over meals. Dinner is a two or three-hour candlelit experience in a good French restaurant. The maitre d' always seems w be there to see that everybody is happy — when he is not running up and down the stairs looking for his customers. The wine flowed as fast as the waiters and neither was subject to extra charge (tips are

Because the ship is small compared with many cruise liners -

After a relaxing

Aegean voyage,

Michael Freedland puts a scoot on

FACTELE

Michael Freedland travelled

with Cunard (general inquiries 01703 634166, or call 0800 000500 quoting Ref SG81 for a brochure). From May to September next cruises on the Sea Goddess II which is identical to Sec . Goddess I) on routes from Athens to Istanbul and from Istanbul to Venice, from £4,170 per person in a twin room and from £6,260 in a suite. The price includes all food, drink and tips, but excludes flights — which Curard can arrange — and port and handling charges of £130 per person. Prices based on two sharing a cabin. Most excursions are also included in the cost. However, there are additional tours to certain difficult-to-reach spots, which are always run simultaneously with other free trips. (On Skiathos, for instance, you could pay £85 to hire a jeep.)

trin, and the maximum capacity is 116 - she can anchor at the coves

Dress is formal on two

evenings and informal (Jacket and tie) on three. On the other

two evenings, the requirement

"elegant casual" — in practice, men do not come down for

per without a jacket and tie.

and on the shores of islands which other ships can't reach. The Sea Goddess began its slow voyage from Istanbul to the Greek

slands via the Dardanelles. The

May weather, which had begun



Her small size means the Sea Goddess can get close enough to shore for guests to go water-skiing and ride wet bikes, and she can dock in the centre of a city

pest Gallipoli. If Churchill had taken a trip like this before engulfing the Australians and New Zealanders in one of the worst disasters of the First World War, he would have seen it was a hopeless operation. The beaches were totally exposed - and looked beautifu from the deck of the ship. The first excursion came the next

day. It was to the Greek island of Skyros, a little place where the people think they ought to throw a party whenever they see a motor car — the coach taking us around the island had to be brought in specially for us from Athens. We found the old town, a few shops selling sunhats and sandals and roads paved with stones more than 1,000 years old. We climbed to the top of a mountain and saw a very old monastery, a testament to both the faith of the monks and their good taste in choosing a spot that surveyed such spectacular views of

Skiathos, the following day, was very different. It rained, and this was much more your idea of an upmarket resort town, upmarket shops and upmarket open-air restaurants that even offer upmarket cushions on their wickerwork chairs. The interesting part of Skiathos comes, as in most resort towns, behind the main street quaint little roads with old build-

ings draped in vivid red flowers. It was at Volos on the fifth day that the relationship between Greece and its Orthodox Church became most apparent. The Meteora monasteries, near where Julius Caesar defeated Pompey, have an air of obvious sanctity about them and are, plainly, also a boon to the tourist industry. The guides will tell you again and again that they have the finest painting anywhere of the Last Supper and offer a chance to look at the skull of

St Nicholas for good measure.

one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time, is a city I had always wanted to see. In the city's museum are the treasures of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. Gold urns, gold jewellery of a kind to make the gentlemen at Garrards salivate — including a couple of laurel wreaths — and precious stones.

Il these treasures could have been newly made, or one's family heirloom collection. Alas not mine. There were also magnificent ivory shields. gold-inlaid swords, helmets and other armour, all of it taken from the king's tomb in one of the most outstanding finds of the century a kind of Greek Tutankhamun. The church of St Demetrius - he

of the battle with the Gladiators contains relics of the man who is patron saint of the city. It is built on

he was imprisoned and then slain. Modern Thessaloniki is a charming city, a pleasant sea shore, an avenue of shops, and a bustling market that appears to extend all over the city's back streets. But above all, it was here that the fascination of arriving by ship comes into its own. Step down the gangplank - you are required to register on a pegboard as you go ashore and move the pegs when you return - and you are already in the centre of the city, just as though you had arrived in Oxford

Street by Tube. A weird sensation.
In a way, though, no more weird than my temptation to indulge in water-sports. Those who know me will agree that that is not my usual bent. But the day after Thessaloniki, the ship sailed along the Halkidiki peninsula. The rocks and islands were as idyllic as any I know, and when the ship docked only a matter of yards from one of

taking part in a movie travelogue The ship's captain, David War-ren Owen, decided it was an occasion for a sailor's holiday. He whizzed around the ship in a dinghy and invited his passengers to go water-skiing. That was dis-tinctly not my cup of tea, but in a blue sea that was like a polished mirror, the water scooters were

something else. You are strapped on to these with life jackets and crew members are on hand to effect any necessary rescues. They were not called upon. That was something you couldn't

do on bigger ship. It would never get that close to shore. Neither would the stewards wade in and out of the sea to serve drinks, as happens on some Sea Goddess cruises. This time, they contented themselves with climbing fully clothed into the swimming pool and offering barbecue snacks and delicacies from there. Why, I never

'The crabs wore 'we were here first' expressions'

Continued from page 21 simple wooden lodges for their guests and planted fruit and vegetables to feed them. Today, the lodges have solar heating and four-poster beds and the restaurant is first-

On Bird Island, everyone behaves a bit like Catholics in Heaven — they pretend they are the only people there. Wander through the dense mangrove and you may see other people, but they scuttle off into the undergrowth like perverts in the park.

So we snorkelled and snored for three days and were rather depressed when the time came to leave. I shall probably go back there to die. Then it was off to Praslin (pronounced Prarlan), the second biggest of the Seychelles

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miles wide. If Mahé was quiet, Praslin was positively comatose. There was a disco but it was padlocked, and there was a casino but no one ever

seemed to use it. We stayed at L'Archipel, a cluster of beach houses among palm trees with views to the island of Curicuse. Our veranda was 30ft long and the room was spectacular - a muslindraped bed on a platform with at seven miles long and two

was straight out of World of Interiors.

When we started to feel

guilty about lolling about, we walked into Bay St Anne up the road, a shabby little place with the air of an abandoned film set. The shops advertised an unpredictable assortment of oddities: "Mr Esperance, purveyor of goods, liquor and chicken parts". Another shop sold pictures of Christ with Creole features, dresses so outdated they would soon be back in fashion and the sort of ladies' underwear that adver-tises itself through your clothes. Beautifully dressed children sat on their garden walls watching the world wag past and without exception. veryone we passed said

In Bay St Anne we caught a bus to the Vallee de Mai, the 45-acre national park which is home to an outsized collection of botanical astonishments. including the bizarre coco de mer plant. This huge and heavy double nut is described coyly in the guidebook as "shaped like a woman's pel-vis" and while extraordinary. it is not the kind of thing you really want to be seen holding in a photograph — and cer-tainly not displayed in your

wedding photo album.

Then it was back to the beach restaurant at L'Archipel

The beaches in the Seychelles are about the best I have seen, but the little private one at L'Archipel was my favourite. Although small, it is only a few steps from your bungalow and strangely quiet, the guests even whispering to each other under the palm trees.

if the Seychelles sound too idyllic, I do have one complaint. On Bird Island, the path between our lodge and the restaurant was littered with large crabs after dark. A French lady two doors up had to be taken to dinner in a wheelbarrow.

The crabs wore "we were here first expressions and made no move to scuttle away. I screamed and hopped so much that Harry had to give me a piggyback. Unfortun-ately, I had fibbed about my weight as well as my age, and just as we were in among the enemy, Harry's knees buckled, he fell to the ground and i was catapulted over his head in among a thousand claws. I think it is grounds for divorce.



Taking the plunge: this couple married under water - the bride in white with a garter, the groom with a top hat

A WEDDING in a wadii is the latest variation available to a couple deciding to marry abrond, writes Steve Keenai The travel company Wed-dings Abroad is to feature Dubai after requests from couples dreaming of an English Patient-style ceremo-ny against a background of pled dunes and the strains of Midnight at the Oasis.

The more exotic the location, the better, but the broadening range of destinations may also reflect a move away from mainstream wedding spots. Barbados, Kenya, Antigua and the Seychelles have all dropped in the list of Kuoni's Top 10 wedding destinations, while Sri Lanka. Thailand and Australia are on the up (see below).

Nick Cropper, director of Weddings Abroad, said: "1 am unhappy with the Caribbean in general, particularly the Dominican Republic. Problems happen when com-

EMOTIF WEDDING FIELD ? placency sets in Things get overlooked at hotels doing four or five weddings a day couples marrying abroad. and, when one problem oc-People are also spending more, with the average outlay

could have been nipped in the bud become a big dilemma." RECENT complaints include those from a Manchester couple who are suing travel company Unijet over blurred wedding pictures in Antigua. And Thomson, last month, had to move wedding dientsto different hotels in the Dominican Republic because a planned hotel refurbish-

ment had been delayed. The potential for disaster is vast - and free T-shirts. breakfast in bed or sparkling wine will not appease couples when the photographer or hairdresser do not turn up. However, the appeal of marrying on a palm-fringed

beach has not abated, with estimates of up to 40,000

in the past two years having increased by 50 per cent to El,500 per person, says Mr Cropper. He cites one couple lashing out £500,000 to take a wedding party of 100 abroad. Several tour operators now have separate wedding brochures, including Thomson, Airtours, Cosmos and Knoni. According to Colleen O'Brien, the wedding co-ordinator

for Kuoni, about half its clients are second-timers at the altar. They prefer a beach to a register office on a cold winter morning," she said. More destinations are becoming available, such as Bali, which has now cut residency rules to 14 days instead of 28. The average residency requirement at most destinations is five days. But certain countries have wedding restrictions. Canada and S. itzerland are still hidebound by bureaucracy, and most Muslim countries are

off-limits. Local rules apply wherever you are. Bali may have cut its residency rule, but refuses to cater for divorced Catholics. Weddings Abroad, 0161-969
 1122. Kuoni, 01306 747007.

THE TOP 1	O WEDDING
DESTIN	IATIONS
	on in brackets)
1(1)	M. Lance
2 (5)	Sri Lauda
3 (2)	Lierandos
4 (8)	USA
5 (4)	Копуа
6(3)	Antigua
70	Mauritius
8(6)	Foytheles
9 (-) 10 (-)	Attabalia
190.12	, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
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SPEN S DAYS A WEEK # Teletest page 258.

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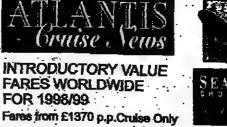
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Casting a shadow on the Viking Sun

Maria
Harding asks
whether
Cunard's finest
ship is all it's
cracked up to be

he American woman accosted me as I was about to board the coach for a visif to the ballet, her lips set thin with disapproval.

Excuse me, but I couldn't help overhearing you say at lunch you thought Odessa was a lovely city. I just can't belieeeeve you mean that It's so bleak, so run down. They've spent nothing on doing it

I pointed out that cash was not exactly thick on the ground in Ukraine in the wake of deunification, and defended Odessa as best I could on a few hours' acquaintance.

Surely the city's pasteltinted 19th-century houses, the lovely tree-lined Pimorsky Boulevard overlooking its Potemkin Steps, and its Classical-style circular opera house had a certain grandeur, albeitfaded?

She remained resolutely unimpressed as we headed for that same opera house to watch the Odessa State Academical Opera and Baller Theatre give a heart-rending performance of Giselle.

Sitting stolidly in the box next to mine, she made no attempt to applaud the virtuosity of the dancers and did not even wait for the first curtain call before hightailing it back to the coach.

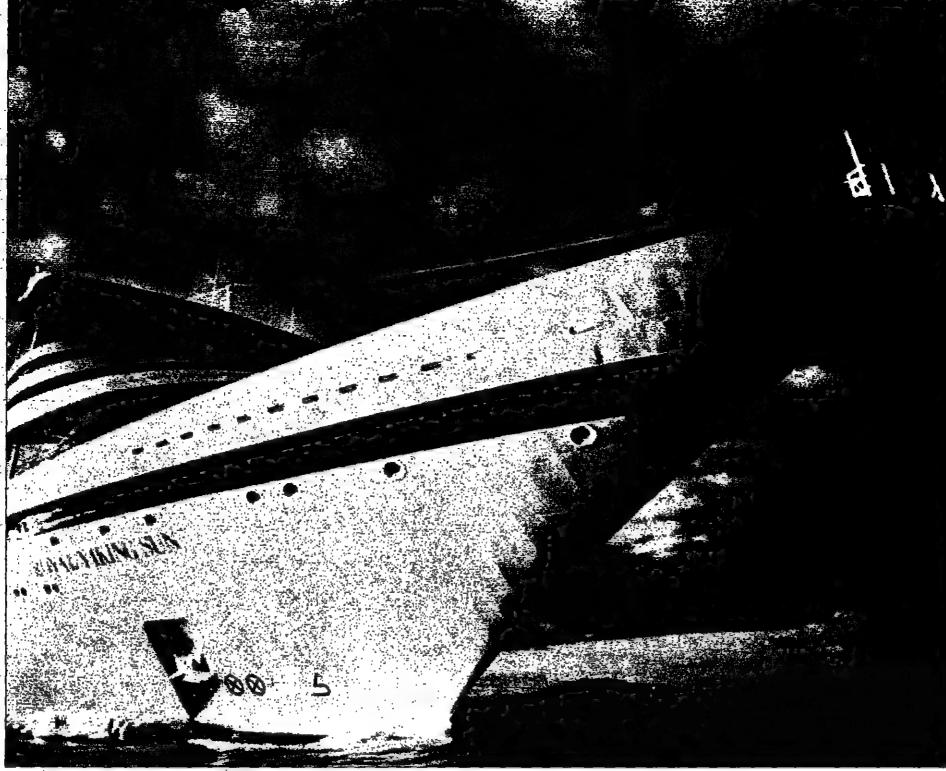
Ah well, I thought, when you are travelling on a ship vaunted by its owners as the world's finest, perhaps life on board seems preferable to anything you are likely to encounter ashore.

And indeed. Cunard Line's Royal Viking Sun. on which we took our Black Sea cruise. is a ship with a noble lineage. Built in 1988 for Royal Viking Line. a Norwegian company famed for the quality of its service, the 37,845-ton vessel was designed to be the most luxurious medium-sized cruise ship in the world, providing the ultimate in comfort, service and sheer class to

her 814 pampered passengers.

The Royal Viking Sun fell into Cunard's hands in 1994 and subsequently spearheaded the line's drive to establish itself as a lunary-cruise operator. Since then, Cunard has been singing her praises long and loud, referring to her as "the world's highest rated cruise ship".

The line bases such assertions on the 1997 edition of the Berlitz Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships, which gives



Cunard proudly refers to its Royal Viking Sun as "the world's highest-rated cruise ship" — but some passengers claim that standards have gone downhill

Royal Viking Sun — along at Royal Vil with four other ships — a top definitely gone rating of 136.5. Service and cle Judging by appearances — wife said. The

the elegance of Royal Viking Sun's public rooms and her capacious outside decks — I could see why the Berlitz researchers had been impressed. But having sampled the standards of service on board, I could not help feeling that under her new management. Royal Viking Sun — rather like Odessa — is trading on past glories.

And I was not alone. A New York couple who had cruised on the ship in her heyday were vociferous in their disapproval. "Royal Viking Sun has definitely gone down, both in service and cleanliness," the wife said. "The sheets used to be changed every-day. Now my cabin maid tells me it's every three days. It's just not good encreable."

An American lady of Scottish descent — drawn to our group by a kilt-wearing compatriot — was equally disappointed. "The ship has definitely changed — and not for the better. The service is nothing like as good as it used to be," she complained.

Don't get me wrong: Royal Viking Sun is a world away from what the tabloids might call "a floating Lubianka"; judged simply as a five-star cruise ship, she certainly passes muster.

Her outdoor decks are broad and well maintained, with a few nice touches like a croquet lawn (the only one afloat) and a small putting green. She also caters for workaholics with a business centre, for health fiends with a roomy gym and spa, and for golfers with a simulator which lets would-be Tiger Woodses "play" some of the world's

great courses by computer.

Her main dining room, resplendent in pale grey and mauve with huge windows, brass trimmings, snowy linen, fine china and crystal, is one of the prettiest I have seen. The

food is good, too.

True, a couple of steaks were overcooked and the salads unimaginative, but, apart from the odd aberration, stan-

dards were high, the bread oven-fresh, the soups absolutely delicious and the puddings to kill for. The ship's alternative

dining room, the Veneziana
Restaurant, at which passengers may eat only once a week,
was even better: classic Italian
food was served with panache
in a chic setting — a real treat.
Another pocket of excellence

Another pocket of excellence was the Stella Polaris Lounge, a lovely semi-circular bar with dramatic ocean views, a ship's wheel (popular for passenger snapshots), a harpist and the ship's best barman, a cheerful Frenchman.

nd Tore Lura, the captain of the Royal Viking Sun, was a real charmer, who took time out on disembarkation day to bid each passenger farewell as they left the ship.

But some aspects of the ship bore comparison with other top-range vessels less sturdily. Cabins ranged from rather poky insides to 21 enormous, 606 sq ft penthouses and one, even bigger, Owner's Suite.

even bigger, Owner's Suite.

I stayed in a B-grade cabin with a broad balcony, television and video, a comfortable double bed, mini-bar (empty), a two-seater sofa and a walk-in closet.

The bathroom was quite

small, with only a shower unit (some have baths, so check when booking) and, surprisingly, no hairdryer. Cosy towelling robes and slippers are provided in all cabins, but only penthouse and Owner's Suite occupants qualify for free drinks.

Lesser mortals may order stocks for their mini-bars but only once they are aboard — a bore if, like me, you arrive hot and sticky after a delayed flight to find there is not even a bottle of mineral water to hand.

Room service was available around the clock, but was run on a rather strange system whereby you dial a number, hang up and wait for your stewardess to call back. This is fine if you only want a sandwich, but a hassle if you want to order from the restaurant menu, available during dining hours — as you then have to call for a menu, wait for the stewardess to deliver it, and call back (hang up, wait, etc) to place your order.

place your order.

If you want wine with your lunch or dinner, there is more delay, as you have to sign a requisition form before they will deliver it.

Compare this with luxurycruise operators Seabourn
Cruises and Silversea Cruises
— where passengers are greeted with a complimentary bottle of chilled champagne, room
service is a simple phone call
away, and staff give the impression that nothing is too
much trouble — and you'll see
why I am not overly impressed
with the RV Sun's claim to be
"the finest afloat".

"the finest afloat".

The problem seems to be that there are too many rules and regulations; you get the impression that the ship is being run more for the benefit

of the crew than of the

For example, bars closed at bizarre and inconvenient times. On the night we boarded, we met in the Midnight Sun Lounge for drinks at

7.30pm to be told the bar would close for cleaning at 8pm. As the witching hour arrived, we had staff vacuuming around our feet until we took the hint, gulped our

calling at Yalta and Odessa
in Ukrahie and
Canakkale in Turkey.

In August 1998, a 14night Black Sea Odyssey

night Black sea Odyssey cruise will cost from E3,930 for an inside cabin, £6,640 for a Calegory B1 cabin, and £10,280 for a penthouse.

The price includes economy scheduled flights to Venice and back from

FACT FILE

travelled with Cunard (general inquiries 01703 b34160 or call 0800 000500 quoting Ref RVSI for a free brochure). She joined the Ropal Viking Sun for part of a 14-night cruise from Venice to Piraeus.

Maria Harding travelled with Cunard

Athens, all food, on-board entertainment and tips, but excludes drinks, shore excursions and port and handling charges of £135 per person.

The ships which share Royal Viking Sun's top rating in this year's Berlitz Guide to Cruising

share Royal Viking Sun's top rating in this year's Berlitz Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships are Hapag-Lloyd's 37,012-ton. 600-passenger Europa, the Cunard-owned 4,260-ton. 116-passenger sisterships Sea Goddess I and Sea Goddess I and Seabourn Cruises' 9,975-ton, 212-passenger Seabourn Legend.

The Dining Experience, as they call it in the brochures, was also less relaxed than might be expected on this class of ship. In theory, you could go to dinner any time between 7.30 and 9pm, but we got a distinctly sulky reception when we pitched up one night at 8.30.

And at breakfast on our last morning, when several waiters were standing about empty-handed. I was told in the sternest tones by one that he was too busy to answer a simple question, and informed me curtly that I'd have to wait. Relatively minor niggles, I know. But the problem with

know. But the problem with claiming to be the world's best—and setting fares to match those claims—is that people expect you to come up with the goods.

My verdict? If you take it as

one of the 20 ships given fivestar or five-star-plus status in this year's Berlitz Guide, Royal Viking Sun has a fair amount to recommend it.

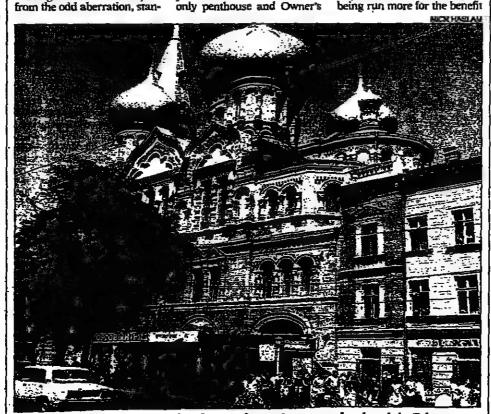
But the finest ship affoat? As my American friend might say, get real.



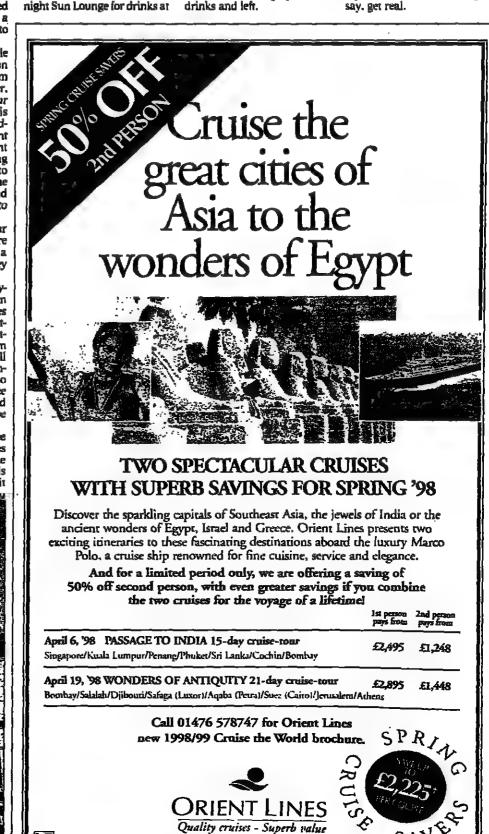
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Fading grandeur: the onion domes of Pantelyemonovsky church in Odessa



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Northern resorts are poles apart

I HAVE seen the future of skiing, and it is in Canada Largely, it is the vision of the man leading me up the snow steps of Spanky's Ladder on Blackcomb Moun-

tain at Whistler Hugh Smythe started as a lowly labourer on Whistler Mountain when what is now the No I resort in North America was little more than a few lifts running up from the town rubbish dump. He worked his way up through the ranks on Whistler Mountain, was the founding father of Blackcomb, and now oversees them both, as well as an empire of nine other resorts.

For the first time, Whistler and Blackcomb - previously separately owned and uneasily co-existing within Whistler Resort - will open under co-or-

dinated management, joined with Mont Tremblant, Panorama and Mont Ste Marie in Canada as well as with Copper Mountain and Mammoth in America, under the Intrawest label.

What does this mean for the holiday skier? I have to stop to take a breath.

The heavy Whistler powder on Spanky's steep off-piste slopes is beating me to a pulp. Smythe pulls up 50m down the double-diamond, expert-rated Ruby Bowi to wait for me. He is a skier.

And that is something unique about Canada. Unlike in America or the Alps, all of its major resorts are owned or operated by hard-core skiers such as Charlie Locke (owner of five Alberta areas including Canada's largest, Lake Louise), Ralph Scurfield (energetic owner

of Sunshine in Alberta), Skat Petersen (charismatic proprietor of Red Mountain in British Columbia), and Canada's most famous skiing family, the Olympic champion Nancy Greene and her husband Al Raine, the genius responsible for Whistler Village. They've left Whistler behind and now supervise Canada's fastest-developing small re-

sort, Sun Peaks in British

I have skied with them all. And were I to hazard a comment on who is the best, there would be blood on the slopes

and Keystone in Colorado. In Canada, more money is being poured into skiing than anywhere else in the world. Intrawest, a Canadian-owned company, has just announced a plan for a few years ago. Silver Star is now

down in terms of who has

the most resorts to play

with. As president of

intrawest's resort opera-

tions, he supervises not only the nine North Ameri-

can resorts Intrawest owns.

but also property develop-

ments worth hundreds of

millions of dollars in both

Squaw Valley in California

Tremblant, which will push spending there up to almost CSI billion. Government co-operation with skiing development is better in Canada than anywhere else. It is the only nation where entire ski areas as well as resort towns — such as Banff — are permitted to expand within the boundaries of national parks.

NOWHERE ELSE is new skiling terrain being carved out so expansively. There is scarcely a Canadian resort without new lifts or new terrain announced each year. Sunshine's Goat's Eye nearly doubled that resort's skiing area. Fermie has announced plans to expand twofold. Having opened one entire new mountain

Adventure Area. This season Norquay opens a new sector, the American Basin. Whistler. Big White. Red Mountain. Tremblant, Lake Louise. . all have new lifts, ski runs or lodges for this winter.

This is not to say that Canada is yet perfect. It is too cold for comfort, until March, for most holiday skiers used to

the Alps.
Whistler is the only Canadian resort to come close to the range and scope of skiing in European destinations such as Val d'Isère or Verbier. Indeed, it would be wrong to say that Canada has anywhere near the best skiing in the world, but it is probably right to say that it is the only place where skiing is going to get radically better in the future.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

A dual mountain skipass gives skiers the run of both Blackcomb and Whistler mountains but the only crossover is at the bottom of Whistler Village. Respectively, these mountains are number one and number two in terms of vertical drop in North America, with Blackcomb's skiing falling one vertical mile down challenging couloirs, open bowls and twisting gullies.

Whistler's snow is deep, its grooming impeccable and its pistes adored by intermediates. But it rains in the village and the snow is often heavy

and sticky. There are several excellent restaurants, better ski shops than in the Alps, and a good range of chalets and ski-to-the door hotels, the most impressive of which is the Chateau Whistler, opening this season after a £20-million expansion

Sun Peaks is western Canada's most impressive work in progress. An entire new village has been constructed, three major hotels this summer. Almost an hour from nowhere — Kamloops, BC — Sun Peaks is a paradise for skiers who can't stand queues and who don't much like seeing any other tracks but their own in the powder.

In the Okanagan Valley, the family resorts of Silver Star, Big White and Apex guarantee uncrowded slopes, high snow levels and low prices. Silver Star has a superb ski school and a tiny village that looks just like the set from a John Ford western. Big White is even smaller, but with deep powder. Apex has outstanding skiing at modest prices.

Family orientated Panorama has the third-highest vertical drop in North America and is the base for RK Helicopter Skiing. Now getting more attention in Britain, Fernie is renowned for its friendly folk. and cheap accommodation in what used to be a mining town. Being close to the Conti-nental Divide. it has some of the best powder snow in

A legend among skiers who fly in from all over North America for its unreconstructed ambience and rough terrain. Red Mountain is a time warp of stripped-down skiling: snow, snow and more

Condos may be under construction in the potholed park-ing lot, but the lifts are still slow and second-hand. And at the Red Shutter Inn. at the bottom of the slopes, the wine is not only bottled but kit-



glacier. Primarily a summer resort. Banff is surprisingly cheap in winter.

Bonff is far and away It is possible to ski all three Banff resorts — Norquay. Sunshine and Lake Louise the most popular Canadian destination. Breathtakon one ski pass. Norquay is beautiful, the town just on the outskirts of Banff nestles in national parkland where elk really do roam the and popular for families and night skiing, Norquay's groomed intermediate slopes streets. Hotels are a dream. especially the 850-room Banff are so carpet-smooth that the Sorings and the Chateau Lake resort happily offers the Louise, set off with a hanging world's only such guarantee: ski for an hour, and if the grooming isn't perfect, you get your money back.

Lake Louise has serious scope and variety: trees, bowls and chutes. But even though it is the largest single area in Canada, Lake Louise can be skied in a day or two. The new Whiskeyjack Lodge, in stun-ning hand-cut timber, is one of the most impressive in North straddles the Continental Divide and has the most sensa-

tional natural snow I have ever skied, but it is also blasted by cold winds. The recently opened Goar's Eye mountain has the kind of open off-piste

HOW TO GO The Canada This Winter guide can be ordered from the Visit Canada Centre (0891 715000: 50p per minute). About 58 tour operators go to

Canada, the same number as last year, only France attracts more UK operators, with 78. Thomson, Crystal, Inghams and Airtours all offer charter flights to Calgary and Vancouver this season; Neilson and First Choice go to Calgary only. And all six offer both Whistler and Banff.

Inghams (0181-780 4444) has the biggest programme, with 11 resorts. Crystal (0181-399

5144) offers an unusual option on its Jasper holidays, stopping over in Edmonton at the world's largest shopping mall.

Thomson (0990 329329) proposes two-centre holidays in Sun Peaks and Whistler, First Choice (0990 557755) counts Mont Tremblant among its six resorts. Neilson (0990 994444) has multi-resort holidays moving among Whistler, Banff

and Jasper. Airtours (0)706 232324) confines its choice to the Banff resorts and Whistler, but with some good chalets in the latter. Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201) was the first firm to feature North America and now offers a rated service in six Canadian resorts. Frontier Ski (0181-776 8709) is one of the pioneering firms to Canada, featuring all the resorts reviewed above, plus safaris

and snowcat skiing. Ski Independence (0990 550555) features four Canadian resorts. Ski Safari (0171-262 5069) started only last year but aiready covers all the small resorts reviewed above. Made to Measure (01243 533333) and Momentum Travel (0171-371 9111) are experienced tailormade specialists. Other operators include All Canada (01502 565176) and Skiworld (0171-602 48261.

For Internet users, here are some useful Web sites. Details of all the intrawest resorts at http://www.intrawest.com. Information on skiing in BC is at http://skicentral.com/british columbia.html. Safety information is at http://www.csac.org.



Lake Louise offers serious scope and variety with trees, bowls and chutes

Historical snow depths will be reported. along with snow conditions, for resorts featured on the

Ski Club of Great Britain's Web site. http://www.skiclub.co.uk. That means Internet users accessing the Ski Club's pages will be able to track this winter's snowfalls at a particular resort and compare them with snow depths going back decades. But don't look yet. Although Zermatt, Saas Fee and several Austrian resorts are open for skiing, the SCGB snow report pages will not be online before November. However, do look out for the SCGB's new magazine, Ski and Board, a facelift for the old Ski Survey

incorporating more snowboarding.

SNOW REPORTS

Première Neige (00 33 47906 0660) runs from December 11-14 in Val d'Isère this year. This famous opening-season party brings racers and resort owners together with ordinary skiers for World Cup ski races and events on and off the slopes. Skiers in a hurry to get to the snow should consider the tiny Auvergne resort of Le Lioran (0033 47149 5008), which has a ski lift from the train station platform to the ski slopes...

The Criterium de la

Gamblers with nerves of ice should try their luck in Megeve. Opening at Christmas in a former bus station, the Casino de Megève (0033 45093 0183) will feature blackjack and roulette and 1930s decor.





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SKY WEEKEND: HELL-SKIING



Canadian firms have built up 30 years' worth of experience and infrastructure, which gives skiers the reassurance of rescue helicopters, emergency bivouacs, avalanche evaluation and weather and communications stations

Wild times with the ultimate ski lift

the crisp Arctic air like hammer blows, in sync with my devated heartbeat and with a

to the soles of my feet. The pilot roars over our kneeling, huddled group and kicks the clattering machine into a tail-high stall turn; diving steeply and driving flat across the glacier floor to slide in inches away from my outstretched hand.

As designated doorman, I catch the pilot's eye, pop the hatch open and usher my nine fellow heli-hounds on board. They all wear goofy grins, some more ridiculously rimed than others from helter-skelter tumbles through the thighdeep powder snow we've just farmed into thick furrows down 1,800 vertical feet.

I put on the rear cabin headset to listen in. The pilot and our chief guide, Mike Wiegele, are deep into a tactical discussion: headwinds. and which hill to attack next. Over the years, I've done some 1.5 million vertical feet of this kind of skiing. But I am bouncing with embusiasm to do it again, and Mike is radioing ahead to push back lunch. He too wants to squeeze

in one more run. Helicopter skiing is simply the most fun you can have in the snow. A full season of resort skiing is no match for just one week of belicopter ing at Mike's 3,000-squaremile powder playground in the Monashee and Cariboo ranges of interior British Colombia

Much nonsense has been written about helicopter skiing, usually by those who have experienced only resort-based limited flights permitted in the

Many skiers are confused

whom feature huge territories — bigger than all the ski resorts in Europe put together. under concession from the Canadian Government. In a week, skiers can easily

ski 150,000 vertical feet of open

glacier and densely forested

at the bottom of each run.

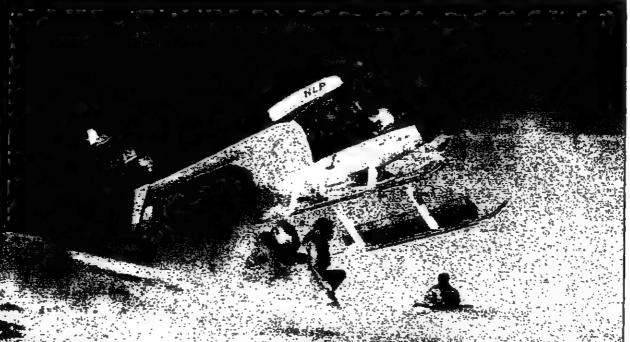
Some outdated myths persist helicopter skiing is said to be unconscionably dangerous. unaffordably expensive and only for experts.

by what are entirely different: types of helicopter skiing. A day anywhere is good for a trial. But nothing compares to a full week in Canada, staying in remote lodges and flying out every day, all day into the wilderness. This is the classic. helicopter skiing experience, invented in Canada almost 30 years ago and today best represented by the world's two largest operations, CMH and Mike Wiegele (MW), both of

terrain, the helicopter waiting. Smaller Canadian opera-tions based near ski resorts. such as the three in Whistler. have less expansive terrain but offer the ideal opportunity to try helicopter skiing for just a few runs. The skiing standard

there is generally intermedi-

Forget those ill-informed critics: helicopter skiing with an expert organisation is the best fun you can have on snow, says **Doug Sager**



Outdated myths persist that heli-skiing is expensive and for experts only: modern reality in Canada is different

than with MW or CMH. A package of three runs costs about £200

Canadian-style helicopter skiing, where helicopters can take off and land anywhere, is illegal in the Alps. Helicopter skiing is banned altogether in France, ecologically unacceptable in Austria, and allowed only in certain regions of Switzerland (most notably Zermatt and Verbier) and in Italy, best on the Monte Bianco and Monte Rosa massifs.

In Europe, helicopters are allowed only to land at specifically designated points and altitudes. A single flight in Italy starts at about £50, and is nearer E125 in Switzerland.

There is no landing zone in the Alps that is not accessible

sometimes fairly easily — to skiers climbing uphill. I have witnessed mountain-top confrontations in Switzerland with ski tourers, who resent helicopter skiers taking the easy way up. Alpine helicopter skiers are often forced into long traverses in order to ski to

valley floors to pick up road transportation home. The danger in Canadian helicopter skiing is more innate than invited. Flying in helicopters and landing them spectacularly, in some instances on knife-edge ridges, is one element of risk. Weather is another. Wilderness terrain can be as unwelcoming as the open ocean. Avaianches are a constant hazard, as is the lesspublicised but no less fatal

phenomenon of tree wells:

by overhanging branches. These are the inescapable downsides of skiing anywhere in true wilderness, compensatfor by the experience and

helicopter skiers risk suffoca-tion if they fall into holes left

around tree trunks where

falling snow has been blocked

infrastructure that Canadian helicopter skiing firms have built up during the past three Standby rescue helicopters,

remote emergency bivouses, weather and communications stations and constant avalanche evaluation provide some reassurance. But helicopter skiers depend ultimately upon themselves and their

iscipline is essential. Every skier undergoes proficiency exercises in finding buried objects with an avalanche transceiver. All have hands-on training in helicopter evacuation. Any skier failing to ski within bounds delineated by the guide is sent home. No one approaches even a shut-down helicopter with skis carried higher than waist level.

it is the thrill of deep snow lying as nature intended that excites the wilderness skier. And the wilderness can never be entered without risk. In the history of Canadian helicopter skiing, one skier per year is killed on average. In a similar 30-year period, on average 80 skiers per year die in the Alps from avalanches alone. In the hedonistic calculus.

helicopter skiing is a bargain. For the passionate skier with more money than time, measured on a scale of vertical feet skied in, multiplied by feet of deep powder snow of such a degree of crystalline quality minus hours spent standing in lift ouelies — Canadian heli copter skiing comes in at a fraction of the cost of resort skiing anywhere. A week at MW, including all helicopter flights, guide fees, meals and accommodation, starts at around £2,500 (excluding

flights from Britain). And you certainly do not have to be an expert to do it. I have heli-skied with children of seven and grandmothers of 70. The secret is wide-body powder skis, about the dimensions of waterskis. These add ten years to any skier's experience and have reduced injuries dramatically. Both MW and CMH have courses for absolute powder beginners. And no one in any group is pushed beyond their limits.

There are some objective reasons for choosing MW over CMH. At CMH, one helicopter is assigned to four groups of eleven skiers, with only one guide per group. This means much longer waiting periods for pickups than with MW, where one helicopter services only three groups of ten skiers at most.

More crucially for safety. MW always uses two guides per group. That means one additional fully equipped guide behind you as backup. not just one guide hundreds of



GIVE IT A WHIRL - SAFELY AND SECURELY

II I have skied with all the firms listed below, except TLS and Klondike, both highly rated by experienced helicopter skiers who used them last season. Among Canadian specialists, James Ort (0171-580 7883) is a new UK travel agent specialising only in helicopter skiing. He can book the romantic TLS (formerly Tyax Lodge); remote Klandike in the Yukon and Revelstokebased Selkirk Tangiers, as well as Mike Wiegele. MW can also be booked direct at Blue River headquarters (001 250 673 8381). Klondike accepts direct bookings (001 604 938 0727). Powder Skiing North America (0171-

resort of Panorama, and all three Whistler-based day helicopter operations.

In the Alps, Ski Weekend (01367 24(636) is Britain's most ambitious tour organiser for serious as well as for

novice helicopter skiers. The Ski

736 8191) is the UK agent for CMH, which cannot be booked direct.

Frontier Ski (0181-776 8709) represents RK Heli-Skiing, based at the family

thrilling descents on the Ruitor glacier from its Yellowstone Chalet in Ste Foy. France. Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) has helicopter skiing options in the Grindelwald region. And Collineige (01276 24262) has a long-standing programme of Swiss and Italian cents for its Chamonix clients. ■ Check you are fully insured before helicopter skiing. Crystal and Inghams are the only mainstream tour operators whose insurance specifically includes helicopter skiing, but only as part of their package holidays. Snowcard (01327 262805) is one of the few specialist insurers with full off-piste and helicopter skiing cover for independent skiers, valid world-wide. M Some of the heli-ski companies listed, such as the overseas-based ones, are not bonded. This means your money is not protected if the company gets into financial difficulties. Pay by credit card for the protection it affords. and book your air ticket separately

with an agent that holds an ATOL,

ABTA or IATA licence.

Company (0171-730 9600) offers

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reportant national parks. important national parks.

The programme commences with a flight from Gatwick to San Jose, before transferring to the Pacific coast. For our 15-night stay we have arranged accommodation at the sophisticated, European managed 4-star Playa Tambor Hotel situated on its own glorious beach and ideal for a relaxing stay or as a base from which to explore the national parks.

Since the demand for the few available places is anticipated to be high, it is essential that telephone reservations are made to avoid disappointment.

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public amenities include restaurants, bars, swimming pool and casino. The tiful areas of Costa Rica with endless, unspoilt beaches along the Pacific Ocean, lies within its own natural park

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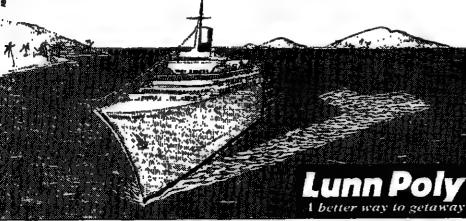
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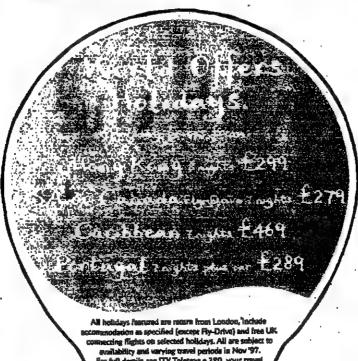
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Forget auld acquaintance, for singles there is a jollier way to celebrate New Year's Eve, says Jo Carlowe



The cast of This Life may not be too bothered about who sleeps where, but if you don't want to end up on a crowded couch book a holiday cottage with enough beds

This Life is great for a party

year is always tricky for the single twentyand thirty-somethings. You are too old to go clubbing, too young to be sipping port in front of the television, and not so desperate that you want to go home to your family.

The solution? Hire a cottage, grab a party of like-minded friends and hole up in the middle of nowhere for a week. It is exactly what the cast of This Life or Friends would do if they went away together for

from it all with a group of unattached friends is a very 1990s thing. This is the decade in which single power has become a force to be reckoned with. One need look no further than the popularity of the two cult television shows to know that friends have become sur-

And so it is that professional twenty- and thirty-some-things, with time off work and cash to spane, are teaming up in droves to see in the new year away from their extended family and childbearing. nappy-wielding peers.

Lisa, 32, met her husbandto-be, Nicky, 36, an antique jewellery dealer, on such a "When it came to New Year's Eve. I was always worried I would not be a friend, Fiona, a 33-year-old



Getaway people: back row, from left, Fiona, Graham and Judith. Front: Lisa and Nicky. Right: stars of Friends

'I loathed

invited anywhere or, if I was, that it would get to midnight and I would be the only one without someone to kiss," said Lisa, a schoolteacher from Barnet, north London.

One year she traipsed to Trafalgar Square, only to spend the whole night trying to avoid the lunging lips of passing inebriates.

"I loathed New Year's Eveso much that I used to offer to babysit - and this special night came to mean babysit-

ting," she said. Two years ago everything changed. Lisa teamed up with BBC broadcast as-sistant from Hampstead, north London, who was aiready a veteran

boom. "We wanted to escape, to spend the new year with friends somewhere nice in the country and make a whole week of it, in this way, New Year's Eve itself would lose its significance and there would be anti-climax,"

Lisa said. friends' Aware that New Year's Eve was fast cottage for eight, confident that the vacant places would be easy to fill. They plumped

beaten track, at Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. It cost about £400 - cheap when divided eight ways. Fiona wanted an equal gender divide. She found four willing female friends, but getting the men was more

for somewhere situated off the

group was gath-ered: an Irish lawyer, several London professionals,

late breakfast, which some-

times carried over into lunch

Some days involved sight-

seeing or country strolls, while

afternoons, according to Gra-

ham, consisted of a never-ending quest for the "ultimate

cream tea". The evenings were

equally stress-free, with the

cold tempered by alcohol, chat

and the occasional game of

going, and besides the weather

was so atrocious that no one

would have been able to go

stomping off as everything

was under five inches of ice,

Lisa said. New Year's Eve itself was spent in the pub.

ruined by a two-man band "murdering" old ballads. "If this had been New Year's Eve

at home it would have been

terrible, but because we had the whole week it didn't mat-

29, a journalist, found little to

celebrate when he joined his

girlfriend and mates at their

holiday cottage. The others

had arrived several days earli-

er. John had failed to realise

that the icy British winter

would compound the sense of

course, not all

group holidays run

like an episode of

The Waltons, John,

Everyone was so easy-

and afternoon tea.

Trivial Pursuit.

ter," she said.

- New and Nicky. Two weeks be-Year's Eve fore going on holi-day they all met up so much in a caté to discuss that I used the shopping and transport arrangeto be quite ments. For some it was the first time happy to they had met. Judith, 32, an office babysit for manager, described it as a comall my promise between going away with close friends and

joining a singles holiday with total approaching, they holiday with total took a risk and booked a strangers. By December, three of the men were no longer single but they went anyway. "I tried to have intimate telephone conversations with my new girlfriend but the others were always around," complained Graham, 37, a

personnel officer. Another group member confessed: Graham is a romantic. His calls were a little flowery, a bit gushing. We couldn't help but listen in."

The most enjoyable aspect was the general laid-back feeling of the week - a great relief after a frenetic year at work. Days rended to begin with a

ing up inside the beamed cottage with its open fire. The extreme cold, combined with a heady mix of free-flowing alcohol and a festive attitude. proved a dangerous cocktail. By the time John arrived, he found his place as boyfriend had been usurped by another — more This Life than

However, the Nicky/Lisa romance was all above board. although it did not really start until a month later. "During the week I couldn't take my eyes off her, but there was the had tried anything and it had not worked out I would have ended up with egg on my face," Nicky said.

The couple are to marry in April — with young bridesmaids, "All those New Year's Eves spent babysitting weren't in vain after all," Lisa said.

HOW TO PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

earlier you need to book for Christmas and new year. "For this year, most of the larger properties have gone," says Mike Dean, of Blakes Cottages. "Places with thatched roofs and open fires tend to go first, as do those in central locations such as the Cotswolds. People like New want a quirky property, book a year in advance. But groups of six to eight people prepared to go off the beaten track can still find places."

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

"A prerequisite of any house party is a decent ratio of bathroome, showers and WCs. Heating should be good and open fires or wood es are essential," says

WHO DOES WHAT

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Hope Cove. Devon. Views across bay, open fire, four bedrooms (three doubles, on twin). Sleeps 8-9: £923. property by Dartmoor, sleeps four in two bedrooms, £732.

EAST ANGLIA

Brindle House, Wroxham. Norfolk, sleeps eight in one double bedroom, two twins double bedroom, two twins and two singles: £970 (English Country Cottages).

Grange Barn, a converted barn near Reepham, Norfolk. sleeps four in double and twir room, one bathroom; £772

NORTH OF ENGLAND Humer's Hollow. Northumberland, sleens seven in two doubles, a twin and a ngle: two bath: (Rural Retreats) Swarkestone Pavilion, Derbyshire, sleeps two; roof terrace: E267 (Landmark Trust).

TERSEY The Nicolle Tower, St Clement's, octagonal tower occupied by the Germans during the war, sleeps two: £368 (Landmark Trust).



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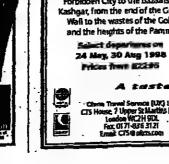
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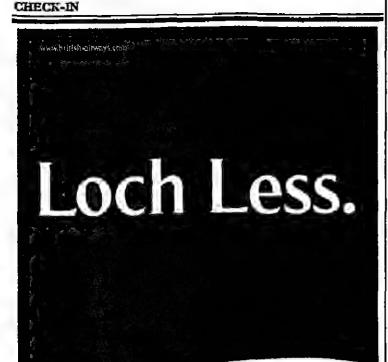
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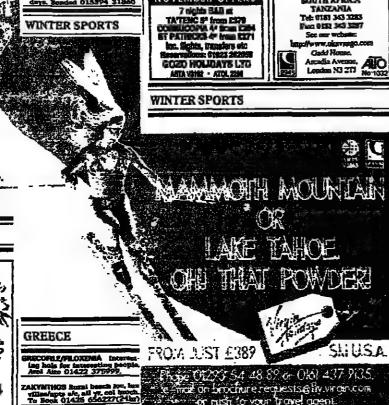
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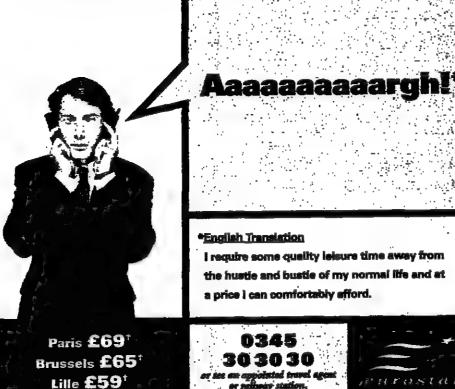
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AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

Now tourism collapses



Firemen survey the 13th-century bell tower at Foligno, just one of Italy's medieval treasures damaged by four earthquakes and 90 smaller tremors

he Italian earthquake that devastated the Basilica of St Francis is expected to result in long-term tourism losses for the town of Assisi. With the upper church closed for at east two years, several four operators to Umbria are rescheduling their 1998 pro-

grammes to Assisi. Another company this week wrote to customers cancelling an annual Christmas Eve visit to the basilica for Midnight Mass. The Alternative Travel Group had staged the event for the past three years and expected another full complement of 16 visitors this year.

Chris Whinney, the company's menaging director, said

Shattered by the recent earthquakes, Assisi will also have to count the cost in lost visitors, says Steve Keenan

tion of Assisi is the basilica,

which is one of the most

Damage caused by earth-

stunning in Italy."

damage to the 13th-century basilica. But while Assisi will other Italian destinations. lose visitor revenues, he said many customers were seeking ways to make donations to the rebuilding of the basilica and other monuments in Umbria. "We have had a lot of people wanting to contribute. There have been 40 to 50 letters. They are very upset on behalf of the

The company will still offer Assisi in its 1998 brochure, But other operators, including

people of the area and the loss

of their livelihoods."

as work continues to assess

pect Music and Art Tours. the company to stop taking bookings for all bar one of its have replaced the town with hotels in Assisi; including the Subasio next to the basilica.

ttracted by the basili-ca — the biggest tour-ist draw of the region But, in common with other operators to Italy, the main earthquake on September 26 - visitors pack Assiwas within three weeks of the si during the summer. Yasmin summer tourist season ending Sethna, a spokeswoman for Magic of Italy, said: "Most of and relatively few British tourthe towns in Umbria are Those who eancelled travel medieval and the best attrac-

plans were primarily holidaymakers making a pilgrimage to Assisi, specifically to visit the basilica, including three people who booked through

Four people were killed when part of the frescoed ceiling by Giotto and Cimabue in the upper basilica came down. It is hoped to reopen the lower church within a week. provided the seismic activity has died down. But scaffolding in the upper

church to enable restoration will not be in place until at least next April. Last week, a spokesman for the Friars of Assisi said he hoped the upper church could be reopened with a Christmas



Its currency may be turmoil but Houg Kong is still buzzing. Departing from Heathrow on Wednesday and Thursday, Qantas Holi-days (0990 673464) has return flights and five nights' room only accommodation at the Grand Tower Hotel for E569. reduced from £899 - a sav reduced from £899 — a saving of £330. Extra nights from £65 per person. British Airways Holidays (0990 224224) has Hong Kong breaks departing before November 30: three nights at the Wesley Hotel cost from £299 per person including scheduled flights from Heathrow and recommodation.

Oxford is being taken over: from today to November 2, music fans will head for Radio 1 Sound City (01865 794494), an indie/dance extravaganza at various venues. The Lighming Seeds, Sleeper. Dubstar, and DJs Judge Jules and Pete Tong are among the acts appearing. Contact the tourist office (01865 726871) for accommodation.

☐ Enjoy Hallowe'en at one of Scotland's many haunted hotels. The Meldrum Hotel (01651 872294). Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, offers halfboard accommodation for £114 per person per night— and possibly the "White Lady", famous for her ky embrace. A lone hagpiper haunts The Colquionnie Hotel (01975 651210) in Strath-don, Aberdeenshire, which

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Edinburgh	(ex-Luton)	(ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
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in all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when to * Auditability is not guaranteed. * Fares shown do not include any applicable taxes or security less.

tion for £42.50 per person per night. More information from the Scottish Tourist Board (0131-332 2433).

with The Gambia Experience (01703 730888). Departing on Tuesday (October 28), the price includes B&B, flights, transfers and taxes.

A week's sunbathing in The JOANNA HUNTER Gambia is £289 per person

It's all a question of tax

AIR Passenger Duty (APD) doubles to £10 for European Union countries and £20 for longhaul destinations from next Saturday, but most airlines are still not including the tax in their advertised prices.

Passenger groups feel customers are being misled into buying tickets without knowing the full cost, and are urging the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to recommend that the practice be scrapped.

When the increases take effect, it will cost £80 in duty for a family of four to visit Florida, instead of £40 at present. The Air Transport Users Council, a watchdog body, believes duty has reached such a high level that airlines should be obliged to include the tax in their advertised prices. "We want people to know about all the various costs they're having to pay at the time of booking," said the Council. "The problem is that airlines are reluctant to change

their ways because they feel it might affect business. That's not being honest." Airlines, however, say the Government is using them as a way of raising taxes. By separating APD from the standard cost of the ticket customers know how their money is being spent.

All tour operators that are members of ABTA (the Association of British Travel Agents) have agreed to include duty in package-holiday prices, but many which have flight-only wings have been reluctant to add duty to flight prices. They feel this would put them at a competitive disadvantage against airlines.

The ASA is investigating the problem and is due to report its findings in mid-November. It said: "Consumers should not be misled by advertisements and we may well ask airlines to

TOM CHESSHYRE

Take a break in Brisbane

CAN WE look forward to package holidays in Brisbane instead of Bodrum, swap the Canaries for Cairns or Sorrento for Sydney, now that the Thomson Travel Group, Britain's largest tour-operating organisation, has bought Austravel? Thomson says it does not plan to offer packages immediately and the Austral-asia specialist will continue to trade under its own name. But Thomson is clearly eyeing the growing market for holidays Down Under — as opposed to trips taken by "VFR passengers" (Visiting Friends and Relations). About 450,000 of us head to Australia each year. Charles Newbold, Thomson Group's managing director, anticipates a considerable boost from travellers to the millennium celebrations and Sydney Olympics in 2000, but his first aim is to increase sales in continental Europe.

Santa Claus is flying high



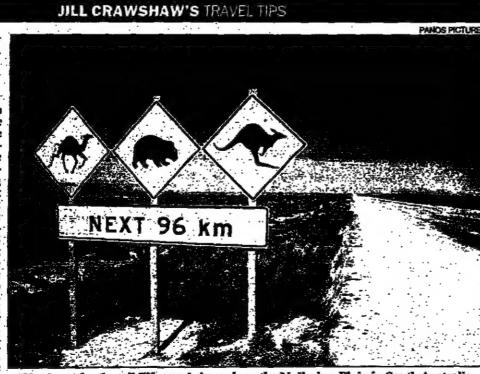
Christmas is alive and waiting for special British Airways red-nosed Boeing 737s to

YES, Father.

take to the sky over Manchester. The 45-minute Santa Specials start on December 7 and will operate every weekend up to and including Christmas Eve. For 567, passengers take part in a search for Santa in the sky until he suddenly appears with his high-flying sleigh and sacks of presents. For more information call 0161-832 7972.

Picked pockets

POLICE in Budapest have stepped in to curb picknocketing Squads of tour-ist police patrol the streets and are easily identified by their blue baseball caps. Ap-parently, two gangs of pickpockets have been put out of



Watch out for the wildlife road signs along the Nullarbor Plain in South Australia

The Hungarian National Tourist Board (0171-823 1032) expects about 250,000 Britons to visit Hungary this year.

TAKE the panic out of Christmas catering on a three-day cookery workshop at The Riverside at Helford, Cornwall (01865 400825). Clare Latimer, who has catered for prime ministers and who began her cooking career at Helford, will advise on recipes including stuffing for the Christmas goose and other traditional foods. The course runs from November 14-16 and costs £175 per person for modation, all meals and cookery demos.

Stepping out

TWO tour operators, specialists in different continents, have joined forces to offer customers tailor-made holidays in Africa and Asia. Steppes East (01285 810267) was created in 1989 to capitalise on tourism potential in Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall. The company now bridges the Indian sub-continent and

action already by the police | South-East Asia. This year it presence. | South-East Asia. This year it bought Art of Travel (0171-738 2038), which has made its name in southern and eastern Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean.

in its new brochure, Art of Travel has prices from £2,060 for a 16-day Zimbahwe safari to £3,640 for a 17-day Bushmen of the Kalahari tour in Botswana, while Steppes East has expanded further into Vietnam, Laos and Indonesia while adding Borneo and Malaysia. Its sample itineraries start at £1,850 for 12 nights in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Spanish scam

HOLIDAYMAKERS should beware of a scam operating in the queue to cross from the Spanish town of La Linea into Gibraltar. Waiting to cross recently to catch a homeward flight from the colony, we and others with Spanish-regis-tered cars were approached by a group of hustlers. "You will need a 1,000-peseta ticket to take your vehicle back into Gibraltar," one of the villans told its, attempting to force a grubby yellow ticket under the windscreen wipers. He pursued us, saying "you will never get across without this",

before tackling the next poten-tial victim. This scam is operating despite warning signs (visible after the point where the spivs operated) that entry to Gibraltar is free and all you

need is your passport. If you do not want to queue to return your hire car sometimes more than an hour's delay - hire firms will allow you to leave vehicles on the Spanish side of the border. There are two snags: you may have to carry your luggage across and you have to top up your tank with much more expensive Spanish petrol.

VIENNA'S 700-yearold Advent markets begin this year on Novem 15, and a new museum is opening on November 27 in the vaults of the Stallburg palace. It is dedicated to the dancing white Lipizzaner horses with displays which trace the history of the Spanish Riding School since t was founded in 1572. The highlight is watching the Lipizzaners in action. The museum is open daily (excep Mondays) 10am-ópur, entrance for adults is ASSO (£2.50). Contact the Austrian National Tourist Office in London (0171-629 0461).



magine a region larger than Britain, with a population of L only 25,000 people, two major roads, limited access to the coast and hundreds of islands and you have the perfect place for an expedition cruise.

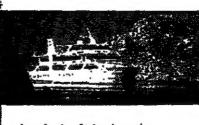
Join us on a visit to the real 'Outback' to an area the Australian's refer to as "The Land of Wait A While" - Kimberley has seldom been in a hurry. It was the last great empty section to be explored, with European settlers arriving only just over a hundred years ago. Ignored by the early explorers, Kimberley today is one of the richest areas of Australia. Record gold and diamond rushes, great cattle drives and hauls of pearl shells have put the Kimberley on the economic map, yet for all its latterly discovered wealth it still remains one of the most untouched areas in the world today.

Rarely visited in any depth because of the undeveloped nature of the region, it is a wonderful place for the genuine traveller to explore. There are so many highlights it is difficult to know where to begin. From the tidal phenomena at Montgomery Reef to the horizontal waterfalls near Talbot Bay; from the

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hundreds of islands in the Buccaneer Archipelago to the gorges of the Mitchell, King George and Prince Regent rivers and from the fertile Ord River Valley to Lake Argyle. The whole vast area offers a comucopia of natural world delights on a scale seldom witnessed anywhere else in the world.

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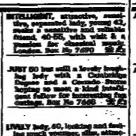
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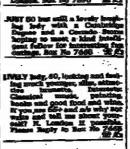
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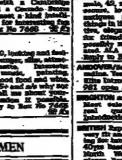


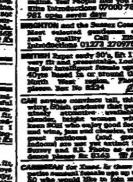
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Sara Eden

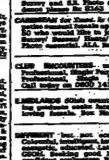
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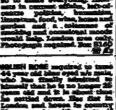


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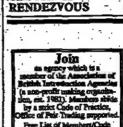




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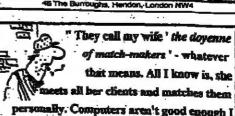
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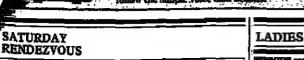
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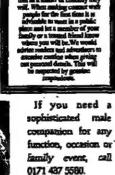
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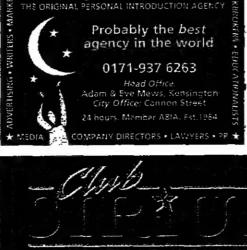
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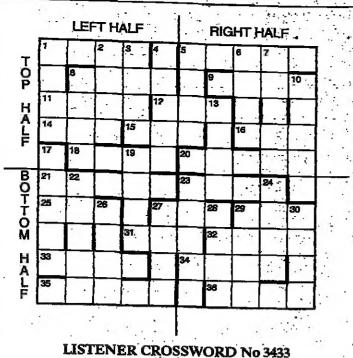
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THE letters P, R, I, M, E and S each represent one of the prime numbers two, three, five, seven, eleven and thirteen but the numerical values of the letters (which are to be deduced by the solver) are different in each of the four halves of the diagram, across entries being divided into top and bottom halves, down entries into left and right halves; no letter has the same value in different halves.

Before entry in the diagram, each answer must be transformed to one of the number bases between two and eleven inclusive; one row and one column of the diagram correspond to each number base. If necessary, in base eleven use X to stand for ten; for example 1690 (base ten) would appear as 12X7 (base eleven).

Clues follow the normal rules of algebraic notation, only asterisked clues lead to palindromic diagram entries, and no diagram entry has zero as its first digit.

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LEGENDS ROTUNDA

Trice has never been a guaran-

though most now cost between £30

and £70, but there are ways to start

a collection on a budget. Read on and you could be one of three readers who each win 100 games —

One of the cheapest ways to get

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html) carries details of a diverse

range of Internet freebies, among

Prism Leisure is fast becoming

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DOWN

2 SRS 3 SESS 4 PEP 5 RISES

*6 EME

7 (S + E + E + M + E) (S + I + M + P + E + R) 8 PEPPE + R + S

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27 PS 28 PIPE - R *29 E(M + E + R + S)E

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MEMBER'S DONATIONS:

Solution and notes for No 3430 · A Catalogue by Apex CORRECT LETTERS: WATERSTONE'S

PLAYWRIGHTS

The members of the catalogue were playwrights: PINTER, MILNE, COWARD, YEATS, SHAW, ARDEN, WILDE, SYNGE, FLETCHER, ORTON, IBSEN. Having donated a letter, each was an agrammed to form a word in the perimeter of the

The winner is Gordon Johnstone, of Alnwick, Northumberland. The runners up are John M. Brown of Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire: J.R.C.McGlasham of Selsey, West Sussex; Robert Trees of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland; Stewart Fowlie of Edinburgh; D.I Tomlinson of Carshalton, Surrey.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

ONE OF the key matches of the 1997 Generali European Championship was that between The Netherlands and Italy. The Netherlands eventually finished sixth, narrowly missing the last qualifying spot for the Bermuda Bowl. The Dutch declarer might have improved his team's chances on this hand:

AAQJ9

+ 10873 N . S ±64 ♥ AKQ10543

◆K78 Contract: Four Hearts by South Lead: the jack of clubs

After three passes, South opened Four Hearts and was left to play there. He ran the jack of clubs lead to his king, and played ace and king of hearts: West followed once and discarded a spade on the second round, with dummy discarding a diamond. On the next two hearts both dummy and West discarded a spade and a diamond. What should declarer do now? In practice he took a spade finesse; East won and put his partner in with a diamond. West switched back to clubs and the defence took two club tricks to bear the contract. The full deal is

shown in the next column. Do you see what South should have done after drawing trumps? Playing clubs would have been no better - the defence can always arrange for West to play a spade

RECALESCENT

10873 +Q843 · N ±108752 **∌K3** W: E 9872 ♦AQ65 S ♣J 109 ♥AKQ10543 **◆**K76

The editor of the Championship bulletin, Jean-Paul Meyer, pointed out that South should have exited with a diamond. That is a communication-cutting play. If West wins and attacks clubs, declarer plays the queen and eventually sets up a club trick with the defence unable to set up a spade trick. If West plays a spade, declarer finesses and the defence only gets one club trick.
And if East wins and returns a diamond, declarer ruffs and plays clubs himself, again putting on the

As the play went, East-West did well to cash their tricks - if they had tried to take a second diamond that would have been fatal. I presume that on the first club East played the two — this being a "count" situation. Thus West knows that there are definitely two clubs to cash. It would be more difficult if

East's clubs were, say. A 7 6; but he plays the six on the first round and the seven when declarer ducks the nine of clubs, thus showing that he started with three.

● The Times Book of Bridge I by Robert Sheehan is available from bookshops, or from BT Batsford (01376 321276), at £6.99 plus £1 p&p.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 32

(c) Glowing with heat again, temporarily, at a stage in the process of cooling down from white heat. From the Latin for "heating up again".

(c) Strictly speaking in the French, the writer or actor of farces. MEGAPOD

(b) With enormous feet, from the Greek.

(b) Patently insincere professings, A term of Roman rhetoric.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE World Chess Federation. It is important to prevent Black Fide, has devised a new plan to determine the World Championship. It will be a 100-player knockout with the final stages to be held in the Olympic Museum at Lausanne in January next year. However, what the chess world wants to see is a one-to-one clash between 22 ... Qd6 23 Qc5 Kasparov, the world champion, and Vladimir Kramnik, who has repeatedly demonstrated his tactical ingenuity and a psychological toughness, A World Championship between the two would be fascinating. This week's game shows Kramnik against one of the world's most feared attacking players.

White Vladimir Kramnik Black: Alexei Shirov Tilburg, September 1997

King's Indian Defence Nf3 Bg7 0-0 Nc6 8 d5 10 Ref - 15 13 Re1

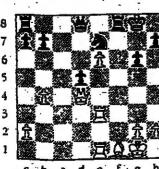
200

White has surrendered the bishop pair. However, Black's kingside has been weakened by pawn advances and the square eb beckons to a white knight.

13 ... 886 14 Ne6 5xe6 15 doe6 8xc3 16 Rxc3 best Black now has an extra pawn, but White's pieces are well mobilised and the passed pawn on e6 proves a constant danger.

17. Bf1 ... e3 Black's extra pawn cannot be held. so Shirov returns it in order to undermine White's own king's

fxe3 19 Rexe3 c6 18 fre3 21 cords cords



from freeing himself with . . . Qb6. The text also sets a diabolical trap with a most beautiful sting in the tail, namely 22. i. NIS 23 Qe5 Nxe3 24 e7 Rodi+ 25 Rxfi Qd7 26 Rf8+

nations, but now that his tactical defence has failed. White's heavily supported passed pawn becomes the dominant factor.

tables are decisively turned.

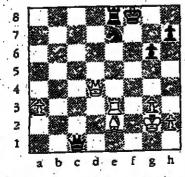
24 ... Qg5 25 Rf7 Rxf7 26 exd7+ Kxd7 27 Qc7 Kramnik has decided, at first sight somewhat surprisingly, to transform the advantage of the passed pawn into one of mobility of attack against both Black's king and his queenside pawns. . .

Qh4 28 Re3 Qxb4 Qh4 30 Qxb7 Re8 31 Com7 d4

White was threatening Bb5. This attempt to regain the initiative now allows White's bishop to enter the fray from a different direction. 32 Bc4+ K78 33 g3 34 Be2

longer stay in contact with his pawn on d4

Qc8. 35 Qxd4 Qc1+



Not only is Black a pawn down but his king is hopelessly exposed to threats such as RG+ and Bc4.

WINNING MOVE

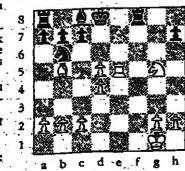
By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent White to play. This position is from

the game Ren - Flamberg, Abbazia Here White has played in classi-

cal gambit style, sacrificing a rook for the attack. He now has the opportunity to crown his efforts with a fine finish. Can you see it? The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next

Olution to last week's competition:

Last week's winner was: D B Winney, Barclay Springs, Whinney Hill, Stockton-on-Tees.

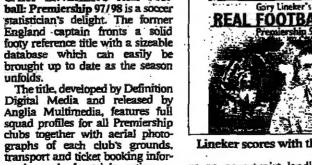


neuve brakes late and takes the inside lime, lent that some

Rxf8 27 Qh8+11 Kxh8 28 exf8/Q checkmate Black sees through White's machi-

23 ... Q14 24 R13 And not 24 Oxe7 on account of 24 Of2+ 25 Kh1 Oxf1+ when the

Now all is clear. Black can no.



mation and a fun trivia section. Pick your favourite team when the Windows 95 CD-Rom first loads and it will then track its progress. Also excellent for pondering endless what-if analyses during the season. As this unfolds you can update the database manually. inputting results yourself, or using the hot-link facility to a dedicated Internet website where weekly information can be downloaded in one go to automatically bring your database bang up-

The historical archive is a treasure trove of information, with match-by-match reports of the last season, based on coverage which originally appeared in the Daily Express. Summaries by Lineker also take you through the more famous games.

The tide is overrun with detail yet slips up occasionally with unlikely vagaries — for example, the old football photographs featured have no captions. Still, here are all the football results you could currently want on one disc. Verdict: 7 out of 10. Fascinating football fact fountain. £29.99.

IF YOU have ever fancied yourself



Lineker scores with this one

as an opportunist landlord then Constructor could be the challenge you are looking for. Here you employ workmen to erect and man timber mills and cement factories then get to work building homes, police stations and even pawnshops to further fleece your unfortunate tenants. Starting with a flat plot of land,

you decide what goes where. First you must ensure the supply of wood and concrete to fuel your embryonic urban nightmare. Next come homes, starting with grotty little boxes and rising to palatial mansions. Your work gangs can also be put to use improving interiors - bedrooms, bathrooms, sitting rooms and kitchens - to attract a better class of tenant willing to meet higher rents.

Playing solo, other computer property tycoons attempt to undermine your business plan, as do thieves and vandals. Two to four human players can compete in network mode. The title, from Acclaim, looks terrific but lacks a decent tutorial facility. It loads through DOS. Verdict: 8 out of 10. Build an

empire with bricks and mortar.

all - by answering the following



Rom has one main title and three lesser games, all running on Windows or DOS and all Windows 95 compatible.

Admittedly some creak a little, although at just 63.5p each this should be forgiven. Lurking in the collection are many oldies but goodies, like the original war

ionship Manager 93, Master of Orion and Ishar 2. The minor titles are all shareware games, which often have a more primitive, homemade quality about them but can be absorbing all the same, such as simple platform games or minor

slot-machine programmes. Three readers can win all 25 CD-Roms in the series - 100 games in

question: Campaign is a game about a) the making of a Spice Girl television commercial. b) military precision on the battlefield, c) getting the Tories back into power. Send your answer on a postcard, with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to Cyberspace Thirty-Seven, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first three correct entries out of the mail bag on Thursday (October 30) will win.

There was an enormous response to Cyberspace Thirty-Six, hardly surprising with three Kodak digital cameras on offer. You had 100 words in which to describe your favourite picture or photograph, so those who only sent their names and addresses must consider themselves disqualified. Otherwise, the imagery and emotion flowed from your collective pen. For Roy Kennedy of Exeter, his most cherished photograph was taken in Iceland during the Second World War. Black and white and barely in focus, it is of the bow-wave of "fellow battleship" HMS King George V. "The picture is a dull symphony of greys with one touch of white, yet this relic conveys the

dreariness and universal colourlessness that are still strong in my memory," he wrote. He recalls the sense of excitement when he took it, coupled with "pangs of guilt that I was probably offending against King's Regulations".

Nia Jones of Swindon treasures a

snap of her dog during a country walk, sitting alert on a tree stump. "Her shiny black fur. fluffy from a recent bath, is gold-edged, caught by the late afternoon sun," she said. 'Her pink tongue lolls in a smiling mouth, her black eyes gaze with devotion. She awaits the command that will send her gambolling along the beech-wood path to home."

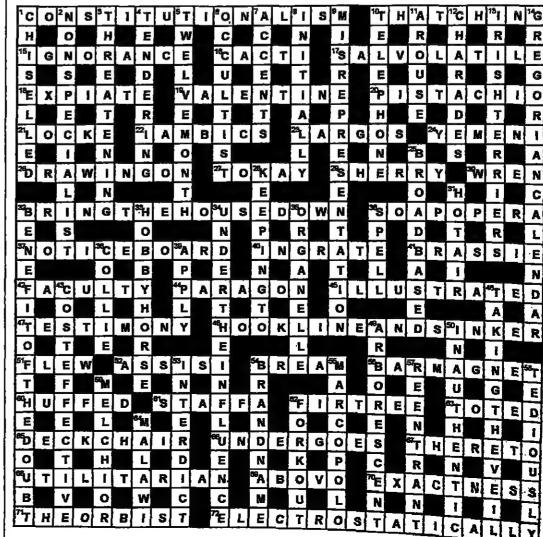
More entries next week.

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the exections

on page 32 Question 1: 104. Successive num bers are obtained by adding 0.1.8. 27. The next number in this sequence (the numbers are cubes) is 64.40 + 64 = 104 Question 2: Rio de Janeiro is the

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 131



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, is R.M. Kirby, of Exeter in Devon

We have paid a large contribution towards the cost of our son's wedding reception, but much to our dismay, have been given no chance to seat our friends and relatives in the way which we should have liked. Do we just agree with the bride's mother's organisation or do we make our requests known?

- Anon You are right to feel upset. Nowadays there is more pooling of resources when it comes to paying for weddings, and this has brought with it an appropriate sharing of priorities. Therefore, I recommend you make your requests known, but do it gently and perhaps through a third party such

You have addressed the problem of replying to official letters from "Jane Smith". suggesting that there is no option but to use the "grim appellation" of "Ms". This becomes worse

when one has to meet, or telephone, Jane Smith Talking for the first time to a man. Mr Smith? How d'ye do?" seems acceptable. "Ms Smith" is unpronounceable, and makes me want to giggle. What do you

suggest?
- Michael Fletcher. Hassocks, W. Sussex A Many people share your comical reaction to verbal attempts at "Ms".

However, when the owner insists, it is polite to use it. Otherwise, you have two alternatives: the formal one, in which you inquire what a woman's exact prefix is, or the informal and more usual variant of just saying plain "Jane Smith."

was interested in your explanation for the origins of how we place our fork after cating. Perhaps you could answer a question that has always in-trigued me. Why is it customary to pour the tea before adding the

- Jane Barton, Beverley, Yorks. A popular and plausible ex-planation lies in the quality of china during the later part of the 18th century. At this time, the poor could only afford cups made of bad quality earthenware that was liable to crack if tea was poured straight into it, and thus they took to adding milk first to prevent accidents. The better off could buy either the newly invented Worcester porcelain that was advertised as being able to withstand boiling water, or bone china with the same heatresistant qualities. Thus, pouring the tea first became a sign of rank, while the MIF method developed the opposite connotations.

Please could you explain the etiquette for the call waiting system that many people have on their telephones. I know these things are meant to make life easier, but surely it is bad man-

ALFRED DUNHILL

LONDON

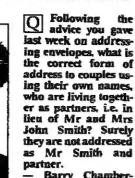
ners for one caller to be abandoned for any length of time, while the other is being spoken to.

Name and address withheld.

A New technologies bring new manners. Polite call waiting relies on a kind of telephonic precedence, that works on a first come, first served basis. The person who is already talking has priory over any new call. The only exception is when the second call requires immediate attention. in which case it is polite to return quickly but briefly to the first caller with an offer to ring back soon.

Forgive me for sounding crude, but what should you do after emitting an embarrassing digestive noise in public? - N.Y. London WI.

A The old rule was that such sounds did not exist socially and were thus not worthy of comment. I see no reason to tamper with this time-honoured tradition



ing envelopes, what is correct form of address to couples using their own names. who are living together as partners, i.e. in lieu of Mr and Mrs John Smith? Surely they are not addressed as Mr Smith and Barry Chamber Hampton

Bishop, Hereford. Absolutely not. The correct way to address an envelope is

to use only one side of the partnership; in the case of social correspondence, it is traditional to write the woman's name. But if you wish to use both names, it is appropriate to style each couple individually, i.e.: John Smith Esq and Miss Jane Brown. In the case of same-sex couples, it would be Geoffrey Green Esq and Peter Pink Esq, with the elder partner's name appearing first.

Please could you advise me on the correct procedure for leaving a dinner party when one is staying with the hosts? When going back to our house in London, we simply choose an appropriate moment, and leave. But when my husband and I are staying the night, can we politely go to bed when we feel like it, or should we dutifully hang on until the last guests have gone?

— Sophie Davies, London WI!

The correct procedure when A The correct procedure when staying overnight with the hosts is for all "home-team" guests to wait until other guests have left. Thereafter, there is no pecking order in retiring for the night, unless there is a guest of honour, in which case it is courteous to wait until he/she calls it a day.

John Morgan is associate editor of GQ. Send your queries to Morgan's odem Manners. The Times, Weekend, I Pennington Street, London



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RECALESCENT a. A down escalator b. Elderly

c. Glowing again FARCEUR

c. A writer of comedies MEGAPOD

a. Stuffing

b. A builder

a. A broad bean b. With big feet c A dinosaur

APORIA a. A bad rash b. Insincere professings

 Disorientation Answers on page 31

TWO BRAINS

"If anything is good for the mind, it is memory training. Memory training develops all cortical skills and trains the whole of the brain using both hemispheres. The techniques of using association, imagination and location employ all elements of the brain." Dominic O'Brien, World Memory Champion.

Question 1: What is the missing number? 4 4 5 13 40 ?

Question 2: Which is the odd one out? Madrid, New York, Stockholm, Cairo, Bombay, Rio de Janeiro, Beijing?

Answers on page 31

RAYMOND KEENE

CROSSWORDS

by Michael Rich

IN HIS opening article, Brian Greer referred to Ross Beresford and myself as the co-editors of the Listener crossword which appears each Saturday in this section. Every so often, we will inhabit his column to tell you more about the Listener crossword land Mike Laws and Richard Browne will discuss the Jumbo and Crossword Two,

respectively).

The Listener was a BBC publication that folded in 1991. After a short hiatus, and to the intense relief of many, The Times took over publishing its crossword. It is, quite simply, the most difficult crossword published on a weekly basis anywhere in the world. Actually, this may be an

unprovable boast, but I am assuming that no foreign language crossword can cap it: certainly no English-language rival can.

People sometimes tell me that the Listener crossword is becoming too difficult Becoming? Little do they know! Nowadays, because the editors take special care to ensure that a solvable crossword is presented each week, it is rare for fewer than 100 correct entries to be received (yes.

we keep statistics).
In the past, and it is a long past this week sees No 3433 appear
 there would sometimes be not a single correct entry.

In prewar days you might have been asked to complete a

diagram in Greek or Latin. Mathematical "crosswords" appeared up to a dozen times a year, and they required a degree of mathematical competency well beyond the level demanded from entrants now.

WHAT HAS changed is that the editors attempt to solve every puzzle ab initio, on the basis that if neither of us can solve it, then it must be nearly unsolvable and therefore almost certainly unfair. We do occasionally allow through an obscure puzzle, but if you keep trying you will find that you will succeed more and more.

The satisfaction of completing your first correct solution is, I promise, well worth the struggle.

PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what Christine and Neil Hamilton, pictured right, might be saying.

This picture, published recently. will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street,

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday,

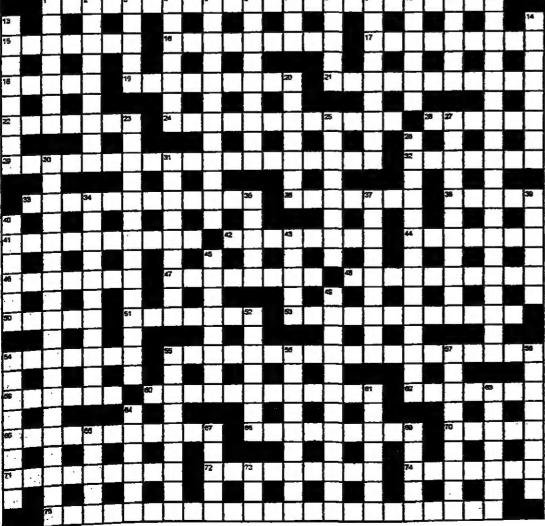
Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by D.H. Stratton, of Altrincham, Cheshire,



JUMBO CROSSWORD 153

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 133, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN to arrive by Monday November 3. The name of the winner will be

published in Weekend on Saturday, November 8.



ADDRESS

ACROSS

I Blacksmith should act

17 Type of engine going off course incurs such a penalty (3-6)

21 Remain alert at dawn, and begin

26 English girl given rise, and top job in magazine (6)

5 (3.3.6.7)

eestatic part of conjugation — (7,5) 36 — affair's dealt woman a blow! (7)

42 Device for switching footwear (4-4)

44 Craft, if at sea, constitute this (7)

47 One of several children volu in jousting practice (8)
48 Ceremonial offical became rare

hospitals (5) 51 Pull fish back to sheltered side of

gume (7) 55 Admire Pooter's work remarkably

71 Wise man - mother has his hair

72 One merely observing brandy set

gossip (7)
75 What uneventful holiday provides

DOWN

dish (7) 2 Brighten up when brush fire's put

Bewails having succeeded after showing enthusiasm (5)

opportunely (6,5,3,4,2,3)

15 Appropriate bit (7)
16 Claim to be undergoing metamorphosis relating to chemical processes (9)

18 Swiss mathematician's sound 19 He's made responsible for

applying second covering of paint round a dowel (9)

to solve a mystery (3.8)
22 Suggested mischievous child was untruthful (7)

24 Walling material's pine -needs an extra yard (8-4)

29 React instantly and arrive at floor

32 Watch TV broadcast, do (7) 33 Washington's false claim about

38 Roam in the mountains (5) 41 Drawing level with rival, I celebrate (10)

46 Gain a companion — single woman? (7)

after Revolution (4-6)
50 Characteristic attitudes in Soviet

boat (7) 53 Horatius made certain Tuscans were in Surrey, perhaps (12) 54 Two Latin chaps involved in

(4,7,8)59 Bandage man after heavy blow (6) 60 Unleard, you finally left and girl entered — it's not on (12)

62 Fondle rented far (7)
65 Again finding sorry device in need of repair (11)
68 Parts of garden chair that is beginning to splinter (9)

70 School getting scholar's letter from abroad (5)

out (9) 74 A churchman, I am involved in

is of little value (7.2,5,4,5)

1 Second fish almost used up in fish

out (9)

4 Australian natives cut up bananas

5 Racing with a fair chance of success (2,3,7) 6 Add fictitious details as English Mr holds new Mrs with love in heart (9)

 Her responsibility was the underworld, largely (3) 8 Indians, for fear of what could

happen, stopped short (5) Footballer may be flying (2.3.4) 10 Line on map shows one well — a watering hole (6)

11 Very keen on the Spanish holiday facility (5)
12 Should picture of a sort come in from there, demonstrating ESP?

(7.12)13 Villa perhaps is hard to electrify (8) 14 Stupidly secretes money from Caesar (8) 20 Temporary quarters housing a new set of occupants (7)

23 To be contrary, little girl left some beef; having eaten some fish (3.4.5.2) Whinging. Christopher possible drinks the French plonk up (8)

27 Mastermind a new campaign supported by Russell (11) Regular feature writer can't skive (5,3.6)
Consistently penetrating, despite all difficulties (7,5,3.4)

31 Citrus, round, somehow quainter

34 Pirate's story narrated for one in a craft (11) 35 Brief chapter in story set up dazzling effect (5)
37 A couple of pages with increases in values (9)

39 They say Northern river should build a corvette (6) 40 Auxiliary verbs act in a specified way (6)

43 Particular position in a field (5) 45 Sailor hurried round and took over (8)
49 Had the brands moved about four inches (5-7)

52 Increasingly smart — and that's admitted by doctor (7) 54 Beef over strike one had to support (8)
55 Remaining incomplete, underwear collection's no good (9)

56 Henry, in land and water

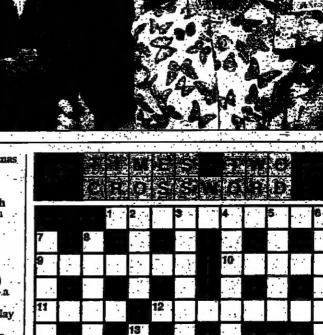
transport, shows competence on safari (9) 57 Using alias, lowly employee enters hostelry — it appears old (9)

58 Filled with excitement — it's a datel (8) 61 Saw farm animals following ewe's 63 Beat a doctor in final (7)

64 One showing superiority raised excellent little shrub (6) 66 Jack used as bait (5) 67 Young oaf being boorishly obstreperous, primarily (5)

69 Page one edged with deep colour

73 in class, I remember how to address master (3)



No 1234

DOWN

2 Chief Norse god (4)

5 White poplar (5)

7 Pompous idiot (7,5)

17 Capital of Turkey (6)

21 Fashionable (4)

(anag.) (12)

8 Repulsive (6)

3 Kept following: persistent

4 One rectifying abuses (8)

6 Eng. lake, wet, wet errand

13 Old SE France kingdom (8)

16 A cereal; sounds like grind

19 Racecourse; type of salts (5)

ACROSS

Where Alice adventured Setting up (machine); decorative book design (7)

10. Less constrained (5) 11 (To the) front (4) 12 Relief; remit (punish) 14 Persist (6)

15 .Head armour (6) 18 Postponing: book storage (8) 20 Insect; in the ear, a rebuke-

22 Henrik - Hedda Gabler author (5) 23 Attain, acquire (7) 24 Moderation; teetotalism

(10) SOLUTION TO NO 1233 ACROSS: 5 Congratulate 8 Fungus 9 Appeal 10 Army 12 Therapy 14 Fielder 15 Spat 17 In-laws: 18 Abroad 20 Plimsoil line

DOWN: 1 Occupational 2 Snug 3 Afraché 4 Claptrap 6 Risk 7 Tramp steamer 11 Mallarmé 13 Pension 16 Bawl 19 Rail

THE SECTIMES

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